

**As Introduced**

**134th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2021-2022**

**S. R. No. 21**

**Senators Hackett, Reineke**

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**A RESOLUTION**

To urge the federal government to increase the 1  
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program's 2  
security against fraudulent actors, both 3  
internationally and domestically. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

WHEREAS, The rate of unemployment fraud is skyrocketing in 5  
Ohio and around the country, and we can no longer afford to 6  
freely hand out taxpayer dollars without some kind of security 7  
measures against fraud; and 8

WHEREAS, The unemployment compensation system is a federal- 9  
state partnership; and 10

WHEREAS, Part of the partnership between the federal 11  
government and the State of Ohio is that Ohio will ensure prompt 12  
payment of both state unemployment benefits and benefits under 13  
the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program; and 14

WHEREAS, While we are in an unprecedented pandemic, and 15  
there is great need for expediency when processing unemployment 16  
claims, there must be some form of security check to prevent 17  
claims from being made in our constituents' names without their 18  
knowledge or consent; and 19

WHEREAS, The federal attitude of "pay and chase," meaning 20  
the overemphasis on expediting benefit payments without 21

traditional safeguards, must be re-evaluated and changed; and 22

WHEREAS, Across the country, regardless of whether these 23  
fraudulent claims are through states' traditional unemployment 24  
systems or the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, 25  
taxpayer dollars are being siphoned off by domestic criminals 26  
and international thieves; and 27

WHEREAS, This fraud deprives our state and federal 28  
governments of necessary resources during a pandemic and costs 29  
our constituents money; and 30

WHEREAS, This fraud slows down the process by which 31  
unemployment benefits are distributed to those who are truly in 32  
need within our communities; and 33

WHEREAS, Instituting a system that stamps out fraud and 34  
theft will clear the way for resources to flow where they are 35  
needed more quickly and efficiently; and 36

WHEREAS, Ohioans who receive 1099-G tax forms for 37  
unemployment benefits that they did not receive must navigate a 38  
cumbersome, frustrating, and unresponsive system to clear the 39  
fraud status from their account; now therefore be it 40

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 134th General 41  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the federal government to 42  
reinstitute the traditional safeguards as well as new 43  
identification verification to ensure that the individuals 44  
requesting and receiving benefits under the Pandemic 45  
Unemployment Assistance program are those who truly need it, and 46  
not fraudulent actors; and be it further 47

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 48  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the 49  
United States, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House 50  
of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of 51  
the United States Senate, each member of the Ohio Congressional 52

delegation, the U.S. Secretary of Labor, and the news media of  
Ohio.

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