



August 24, 2020

The Honorable Andy Beshear
Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Governor Beshear,

With the recent announcement of plans to use approximately \$24 million in CARES Act monies to fund an additional \$100 per week in unemployment insurance benefits, we remain concerned about the added costs for businesses and nonprofits as a result of the high unemployment rate. While we understand the need to provide those benefits to unemployed Kentuckians, we would urge you to make that same commitment to help fund the Kentucky Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund in order to offset the \$865 million loan that Kentucky employers – both for-profit and nonprofit – will have to start paying back in 2021.

As we have mentioned in previous letters, employers have made some serious sacrifices to temporarily halt operations, comply with new safety standards and, in some cases, completely shut down in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Employers across the state are hurting, and when we place an additional financial burden on them to pay for the layoffs created by the pandemic, we only make it more difficult for them to rebound, thus making it harder for them to hire hard-working Kentuckians.

We realize your administration has had some tough decisions to make throughout this pandemic, and we appreciate your commitment to keeping Kentuckians safe. We would really appreciate a seat at the table when it comes to addressing these rising unemployment insurance rates on Kentucky businesses and nonprofit organizations. Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Kentucky
Commerce Lexington
Greater Louisville Inc.
Kentucky Chamber
Kentucky Coal Association
Kentucky Distillers' Association
Kentucky Grocers & Convenient Stores
Association

Kentucky Nonprofit Network, Inc.
Kentucky Pharmacists Association
Kentucky Restaurant Association
Kentucky Retail Federation
Kentucky School Boards Association
Kentucky Telecom Association
NKY Chamber of Commerce