



H.R. 5861, BRIDGE for Workers Act

Strengthens Reemployment Services for Unemployed Workers

- Introduced jointly by Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL) and Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL), this bill makes a technical correction to the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments (RESEA) program to help more unemployed workers get back into the workforce more quickly.
- The *BRIDGE for Workers Act* clarifies that reemployment services can be provided to all unemployment insurance (UI) claimants, not just those most likely to exhaust their benefits. RESEAs are in-person interviews during which UI claimants may receive a variety of services including:
 - Personal engagement to examine their state's in-demand jobs and receive career information that addresses specific claimant needs;
 - Enrollment in employment services, such as job search assistance, employability assessments, or job matching services;
 - Development of an individual reemployment plan; and
 - Access to at least one additional career service (financial literacy services, information about supportive services, assistance with resume writing or interviewing, etc.).

Improves Program Integrity for Unemployment Benefits

- RESEA also strengthens program integrity by ensuring claimants are complying with eligibility rules – including the requirement that a UI claimant must be able to work, available to work, and actively seeking work.
- Reemployment services have been demonstrated to improve employment outcomes and reduce the number of weeks that participants receive unemployment benefits.

Background:

The *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018* (P.L. 115-123) authorized RESEA to reduce benefit duration and improve program integrity in the UI program. The Department of Labor interpreted the law as limiting services to only those UI claimants who are profiled as most likely to exhaust their benefits. Appropriators have included a fix to ensure the program reaches all UI claimants (as intended) in appropriations language as a temporary measure. This bill formalizes the change by incorporating it into permanent statute.

The *BRIDGE for Workers Act* was introduced in the 117th Congress by Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL) (H.R. 3154) and in the 116th Congress by Rep. Stephanie Murphy (R-FL) and Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN) (H.R. 1759). In the 116th Congress, the bill was [marked-up](#) by the Committee and subsequently passed the House under suspension (393-24).