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# United States Senate

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March 21, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer,

As the Senate continues negotiations on phase 3 of the COVID-19 response, I urge you to include proposals that would maximize relief to workers who have been impacted, through no fault of their own, by this pandemic. It is critical that these workers are able make it through this crisis in the best possible position to quickly return to work and their normal lives.

Specifically, I ask that you provide a robust federal expansion of unemployment insurance. I have already introduced bipartisan legislation that would supplement unemployment insurance through FEMA's disaster relief fund, as well as make it easier for contractors and the self-employed to receive benefits. While I ask that you strongly consider that proposal, I also wish to voice my strong support for alternative proposals that provide enhanced unemployment insurance for the Montanans who so suddenly find themselves out of work. So as not to overwhelm the state systems at this critical juncture, the federal government should reimburse the states for all payments above current law, in the short-term, until this national emergency has concluded. I implore you to include full-wage unemployment insurance support in the legislation you are currently drafting. I look forward to continuing to work with you to provide maximum relief for the hard working men and women of this country at this time of national crisis.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator