

Support the CLOSE Act

Clawing back Lapsed Obligations from State Emergency programs Act

Congressman Max Miller (R-OH-07)

Background:

In 2020, the CARES Act established emergency unemployment assistance programs to help Americans that lost their jobs because of the pandemic. The state of Ohio was one of [26 states](#) that chose not to distribute at least some of these benefits because they felt it was unnecessary. To date, these programs have not had their funding rescinded even though it is no longer needed.

Currently, there is a lawsuit that has made its way all the way to the Ohio Supreme Court that, if successful, would force Governor Mike DeWine to distribute the nearly \$1 billion in COVID-era unemployment assistance that the state opted not to distribute during the pandemic.

It is impossible to properly distribute these funds today, and doing so will be a windfall for fraudsters around the world. People who applied for these programs during the pandemic are not only no longer eligible – the state may have inaccurate data in their records. These individuals may have moved or even died between when they first applied and now. Forcing any state to distribute these funds today is inviting fraudsters to steal more hard-earned tax dollars.

Congress must act to ensure that the unobligated balances of COVID-era emergency unemployment assistance programs are rescinded. Any dispersal of funds from these programs seven years after the start of the pandemic will inevitably allow criminals to commit unprecedented amounts of fraud, which we have clearly not done enough to prevent already.

Legislative Summary:

The CLOSE Act would:

- Rescind the unobligated balances of funds appropriated under the CARES Act for emergency unemployment compensation and terminate the programs.

These include:

- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation, and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation.

For more information on this bill, please contact Michael Kraan with Rep. Miller at Michael.Kraan@mail.house.gov.