

Statements of Support for the Stability and Opportunity for Workers Act

"With all of the concern around potential mass unemployment due to AI, this is a timely and thoughtful update to this critical legislation. Senators Wyden, Schumer, Bennet and Warren have been refining this legislation for years, which largely codifies recommendations from bipartisan commissions going back nearly five decades. Unemployment insurance does not cover enough people, or pay them enough, or do so for a long enough period to find a good job. If we fall into a recession with the current broken system, millions will fall through the cracks, and the program will not get enough money back into communities to prevent an economic pain spiral. This is a must-pass bill that meets the current moment perfectly." - **Michele Evermore, Senior Fellow, National Employment Law Project**

"Unemployment insurance gives working people an essential lifeline during job disruptions. We're grateful to Senator Wyden for proposing this long-overdue modernization to our UI system. Cuts to this safety net program have reduced the effectiveness of this lifeline, and potential AI-driven job loss and displacement threatens economic security further. Policymakers should act now to put policies in place to support workers no matter the ultimate outcome of AI's economic impact. Senator Wyden's proposal will create more stability for workers and their families by setting a baseline for minimum benefits across states, providing income support while workers retrain, and maintaining eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit during transition times." - **Becky Chao, Director of Policy & Research, Economic Security Project Action**

"The unemployment insurance system is the first line of defense against labor market disruptions. But the system too often leaves workers behind when a downturn comes. By expanding eligibility, reforming the extended benefits program, and replacing a meaningful share of wages, this bill will strengthen UI's function in stabilizing the economy. With the uncertainty American workers are feeling given persistent inflation, stagnating real wages, and potential disruptions from artificial intelligence, we welcome its introduction and urge Congress to pass it." – **Arnab Datta, Managing Director of Policy Implementation, Employ America**