

# Unemployment Insurance Benefits Bill ‘Strikes a Sensible Balance’

The U.S. Chamber applauds efforts to find compromise on unemployment insurance (UI) benefits as part of a Phase IV pandemic relief bill.

**The details:** Legislation proposed by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Martha McSally (R-AZ), and Mitt Romney (R-UT) would avoid disruption to UI benefits by allowing states to choose between two options:

- 80% wage replacement, or
- \$500 per week in August, \$400 per week in September, or \$300 per week in October

It also provides states with an additional \$2 billion to update their UI systems.

**Our take:** “This legislation strikes a sensible balance of maintaining vital income support during the pandemic while avoiding disincentives for returning to work. The U.S. Chamber commends Senators Collins, McSally, and Romney for their efforts on this pressing issue and urges Senate leaders to give this reasonable proposal bipartisan support,” [said U.S. Chamber Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer Neil Bradley](#).

**What’s next:** Congress needs to reach an agreement on a relief package. “This is the progress we need to enact comprehensive legislation that will provide targeted and temporary assistance to unemployed Americans, employers, and state and local governments, and liability protections for businesses who follow public health guidelines,” Bradley said. “We strongly urge Republicans and Democrats to come together now and enact the relief American workers, families, and employers need.”

## Dig deeper:

- Read the full bill text [here](#).
- The Chamber produced an [interactive map](#) and [50-state table](#) comparing the impact on each state of the various Phase IV federal unemployment assistance proposals to the [Chamber’s proposal](#). We will soon update it to show what this compromise proposal would mean for unemployed Americans in every state.