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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015

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State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senators Prentice, Wojahn and Franklin; by request of Employment Security Department

Read first time 02/10/93. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, Rising unemployment places greater burdens on individuals  
9 and families in Washington State; and

10 WHEREAS, Changes in the structure of the Washington economy mean  
11 more workers will face the prospect of long-term unemployment; and

12 WHEREAS, Workers will face more frequent career changes which  
13 require new skills and education; and

14 WHEREAS, Washington's citizens are deserving of the highest quality  
15 unemployment, employment, and training services; and

16 WHEREAS, The Washington State Employment Security Department is  
17 facing a funding crisis; and

18 WHEREAS, Federal funding for employment services has fallen in real  
19 terms during nine of the last eleven years; and

20 WHEREAS, Funds are no longer allocated to cover increases in the  
21 costs due to inflation; and

1       WHEREAS, Increased costs due to changes in state law are no longer  
2 funded; and

3       WHEREAS, These shortfalls exist in spite of the fact that funds  
4 held at the federal level exceed amounts required by the states to  
5 provide quality services; and

6       WHEREAS, Washington State employers provide funding for programs  
7 for the unemployed through payment of the Federal Unemployment Tax; and

8       WHEREAS, Revenue from the Federal Unemployment Tax can only be  
9 expended for the administration of Employment Security programs; and

10       WHEREAS, Each year one billion dollars more is collected at the  
11 federal level than is allocated to the states for program services; and

12       WHEREAS, Funds to administer Employment Security activities are  
13 held hostage at the federal level in an effort to mask the federal  
14 budget deficit;

15       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
16 release tax moneys paid by Washington State employers to support  
17 Employment Security programs.

18       BE IT RESOLVED, That Employment Security programs be funded at a  
19 level that will guarantee for Washington citizens ready access to  
20 quality programs to assist them in their return to stable employment  
21 and provide partial replacement of lost wages while unemployed; and

22       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
23 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United  
24 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
25 House of Representatives, and to each member of Congress from the State  
26 of Washington.

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