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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4019

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Simpson, Benson, Jarrett, Cooper, Sullivan, Conway, Dunshee, Hunt, Eickmeyer, Quall, Fromhold, Ogden, Cairnes, Holmquist, Morell, Mulliken, Hurst, Santos, Hatfield, Lysen, Kessler, Lovick, Chase, Ruderman, Wood, Esser, Schual-Berke, Jackley, Veloria, Darneille, McDermott and McIntire

Read first time 01/17/2002. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND 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, The Federal Internal Revenue Code currently requires  
9 individuals to pay income taxes on unemployment benefit payments that  
10 they have received; and

11 WHEREAS, The taxation of unemployment insurance benefits impacts  
12 over four million persons annually and reduces their income on average  
13 by seventeen percent for total federal revenues of less than three  
14 billion dollars; and

15 WHEREAS, This taxation of unemployment benefits is an onerous  
16 burden on individuals that are generally experiencing a dramatic  
17 reduction in income due to their loss of employment; and

18 WHEREAS, The taxation of unemployment benefits undermines the  
19 purpose of unemployment insurance, by dramatically reducing the amount  
20 of money available to workers and their families that are experiencing  
21 a loss of wages due to no fault of their own. In addition, local

1 economies are adversely impacted due to the loss of income in the  
2 community; and

3 WHEREAS, Both the Advisory Council on Unemployment Compensation and  
4 the National Commission on Unemployment Compensation have advised  
5 Congress to repeal the federal income taxation of state unemployment  
6 insurance benefits;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectively request that the  
8 Congress of the United States enact legislation removing unemployment  
9 insurance benefits from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code.

10 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
11 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
12 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
13 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
14 Washington.

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