

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT MODERNIZING FLORIDA'S UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE POLICY

WHEREAS after the 2008 recession, the Florida Unemployment Trust Fund became depleted and by law the Unemployment Insurance premiums for businesses were to increase to replenish the fund. Businesses pushed back, so in 2011 then Governor Rick Scott and the legislature came up with a devious alternative. They revamped the Unemployment Insurance (UI) System and made it nearly impossible for laid off workers to collect benefits, thus replenishing the fund that way. They kept businesses' unemployment insurance premiums artificially low on the backs of laid off workers and business premiums have remained the same ever since.

WHEREAS now the COVID Pandemic and resulting unemployment has once again reduced the UI Trust Fund and the legislature, via Senate Bill 50 and House Bill 15, wants to transfer businesses' responsibility to replenish the fund to everyday Floridians to the tune of more than \$3 Billion in internet retail sales tax over the coming years without modernizing Florida's UI policy that unjustly denied so many workers of their UI benefits.

WHEREAS about 90% of workers applying for Unemployment were denied benefits many due to a UI system that was designed to exasperate, delay, and deny benefits, and even Governor DeSantis stated that this was the intention when Governor Rick Scott changed the system in 2011.

WHEREAS Senate Bill 50 and House Bill 15 will give businesses Billions in tax breaks and do nothing to fix Florida's Unemployment Insurance policy.

WHEREAS it is unreasonable to ask working families to pay big businesses' unemployment insurance premiums/taxes without fixing and modernizing the UI policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palm Beach County Democratic Party Executive Committee stands in opposition the Senate Bill 50 and House Bill 15 which is a big business bailout. Florida's Unemployment Insurance Policy must be fixed and modernized.