



August 7, 2010

TO: Interested Parties

FR: The Democratic National Committee

RE: FACT SHEET: Trump failed to lead, and now Floridians are paying the price.

Trump failed to respond quickly or effectively to the coronavirus, and his incompetence has had a devastating impact on Florida's economy. It didn't need to be this bad, and the state has suffered from record high unemployment. Now Floridians are losing the emergency support they need to pay for rent, food and other necessities -- and Trump is once again failing to lead.

TRUMP'S FAILED CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE MADE THE ECONOMIC FALLOUT WORSE THAN IT HAD TO BE, WITH UNEMPLOYMENT REACHING RECORD HIGHS IN FLORIDA SINCE THE VIRUS HIT THE U.S.

Washington Post: Contrary To Trump's Predictions About A Speedy Economic Recovery, Economists Projected That "The Outlook Is A Start-And-Stop Recovery With The Economy Held Hostage By A Failure To Contain The Pandemic" "Trump's salesmanship also risks opening a credibility gap between his rosy comments and reality. In a Fox Business interview on Wednesday, he again predicted a swift 'V-shaped' recovery, an expectation that few economists outside his administration share. And he repeated his unfounded claim that the coronavirus will 'just disappear' one day. 'We're headed back in a very strong fashion with a 'V,' and I think we're going to be very good with the coronavirus,' the president said. 'I think that at some point that is going to sort of just disappear.' Instead, the outlook is a start-and-stop recovery with the economy held hostage by a failure to contain the pandemic, some economists said." [Washington Post, [7/3/20](#)]

TRUMP AND REPUBLICANS FAILED TO ENSURE THAT ENHANCED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS CONTINUED UNINTERRUPTED, EVEN AS FLORIDIANS STRUGGLE TO AFFORD RENT AND PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE

HEADLINE: "As Trump Undercuts Aid Talks, White House Says Extra Jobless Benefits Will Lapse." [New York Times, [7/29/20](#)]

- **Moody's Chief Economist Mark Zandi Projected That A Failure To Reinstate The Full \$600 Enhanced Unemployment Benefits Could Cost The U.S. Economy 1.1 Million Jobs By The End Of The Year.** "Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's, says the federal government's \$600 payments have the biggest 'economic bang for the buck' of any fiscal support so far, more so than stimulus checks and payroll tax cuts. In fact, if the payments are cut to \$200-per-week through the end of the year (which is possible if states struggle to

update their computer systems) then U.S. GDP would see a decline of 1.15%, another 1 million jobs would be lost and the unemployment rate would rise by 0.6%. If federal unemployment insurance benefits are eliminated completely, that would result in a GDP drop of 1.3%, 1.1 million more job losses and unemployment jumping 0.7%, Zandi says.” [Forbes, [7/31/20](#)]

AS MANY ARE STILL STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET, UNEMPLOYED FLORIDIANS WILL NO LONGER HAVE ACCESS TO THE \$600 ENHANCED FEDERAL WEEKLY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

Since Coronavirus Hit The U.S., Florida Distributed \$12.2 Billion To 1.81 Million Unemployed Claimants, Including \$8.9 Billion From The Federal Government’s Weekly \$600 Emergency Unemployment Payments. “Florida has now shepherded \$12.2 billion to 1.81 million jobless claimants during the pandemic. More than \$8.9 billion of that has come from the federal government’s weekly \$600 emergency unemployment payments, the last of which went out last week.” [Tampa Bay Times, [7/30/20](#)]

Without The \$600 Enhanced Federal Unemployment Benefit, Floridians Filing For Unemployment Would Only Receive A Maximum Of \$275 Per Week Going Forward. “Because Congress failed to reach a deal before the \$600 checks expired Friday, unemployed Floridians are going to have to live — at least for now — on payments of no more than \$275 per week.” [Miami Herald, [8/2/20](#)]

On Average, Floridians Would See A 71% Reduction In Weekly Unemployment Benefits If The \$600 Weekly Federal Payment Ended. [Benefit Cut from FPUC Expiration for the Average American Worker, House Committee On Ways & Means, [7/1/20](#)]

- **Unemployed FL Restaurant Worker On The Expiration Of \$600 Enhanced Unemployment Benefits: "Without The Additional \$600, I Would Not Have Been Able To Pay My Rent Or Pay My Bills...Losing That \$600 Is Definitely Going To Effect Me Negatively In Paying My Bills."** “Throughout the pandemic, unemployed individuals have had the opportunity to receive an extra \$600 per week in unemployment benefits. These extra funds expired in Florida over the weekend and will stay that way unless extended by a new coronavirus stimulus package that is currently being discussed by Congress... Naples resident Bonnie Armstrong has been furloughed from her job at a local seafood restaurant since March. Her employer hasn't been able to bring everyone back yet due to sustained declines in business amid the pandemic. Armstrong said the \$600 has been a godsend in helping to cover her bills while she has been jobless... ‘Without the additional \$600, I would not have been able to pay my rent or pay my bills,’ she said. ‘Losing that \$600 is definitely going to effect me negatively in paying my bills.’” [Fort Myers News-Press, [7/27/20](#)]
- **An Unemployed Single Father From FL Said Enhanced Unemployment Benefits “Are Literally Vital To Survival” And “It’s Tough To Even Think About What Happens Once July Ends. We’re Living In The Center Of The Hospitality World, And We Are Not Being Taken Care Of.”** “Sam Nelsen, a single father living in the Orlando area, had two jobs before the pandemic, as a bartender at an Italian restaurant near Disney World and as a theme park concierge and tour guide Since work dried up in March, he has applied for jobs in construction and in hospitality. But even though Disney World has partially opened, it

needs fewer workers because it is keeping patrons and employees socially-distanced; just 20,000 of its 43,000 workers have been called back. Nelsen's rent is \$1600 a month, and he doesn't know how he will pay it or feed his kids on the \$275 a week he'll be receiving if the additional unemployment benefits expire. The extra benefits 'are literally vital to survival,' he told me. 'It's tough to even think about what happens once July ends. We're living in the center of the hospitality world, and we are not being taken care of.'" [TIME, [7/17/20](#)]

- **Unemployed Florida Worker: "I Definitely Have Friends Who Say The \$600 Is The Line Between Above Water And Below Water."** "The state unemployment benefits suck. They're terrible,' said Bardi, a father of two whose wife is a freelance worker and did not apply for unemployment. 'The \$600 from the feds made it worth it.' But those \$600 payments, part of the government's \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, are scheduled to run out this week. Unless Congress approves a new package, jobless Floridians will lose a sizeable chunk of aid they now rely on. 'It meant that I did not have to sweat my mortgage payment, I didn't have to drain my savings, I didn't have to cash in my 401K,' said Bardi, 44. 'I definitely have friends who say the \$600 is the line between above water and below water.'" [Tampa Bay Times, [7/22/20](#)]

Late June-Early July Survey: In Florida, 23% Of Adults (1.3 Million) Living In A Household With Children Reported That Their Kids Were Not Eating Enough Because They Could Not Afford Food. [Appendix Table 1, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [7/21/20](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "For The Unemployed, Rising Grocery Prices Stretch Budgets Even More."** [Washington Post, [8/4/20](#)]

Late June-Early July Survey: In Florida, 20% Of Renters (1,001,000) Reported Being Behind On Their Rent. [Appendix Table 3, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [7/21/20](#)]