

## Don't Hurt Unemployed NC Workers and Their Families - Vote NO on HB 4

You may be surprised to know...

- There are 3 unemployed workers for every job available in North Carolina.
- More than 54% of all recipients of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in NC exhaust their benefits after 26 weeks without finding a job.
- Only 1 in 4 unemployed North Carolinians currently receives NC unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.
- The average North Carolina UI check is less than \$296, which is about average for the country.
- The \$2.5 billion debt owed to the Federal government for unemployment benefits was caused by whopping tax cuts for business in the 1990s that destroyed the trust fund.
- 1 in 6 employers in the state has not paid in enough to cover the benefits of those workers it laid off.
- North Carolina has a low average employer contribution per covered employee of \$336, which ranks 30th nationally.
- North Carolina ranks 42nd in its average tax rate on taxable wages at 2.22%.

HB 4 attempts to solve the business debt to the federal government by **pushing most of it onto the unemployed at the worst possible time.**

The proposal –

- ▶ *Slashes the maximum benefit by \$185 per week and caps it regardless of wage growth, cost of living or inflation.*
- ▶ *Goes after every unemployed worker by cutting the maximum weeks of benefits – currently 26 (same as 43 other states) – to a sliding scale of 12 to 20 weeks.*
- ▶ *Cuts eligibility for UI benefits for losing a job because of family or health reasons, something half the states allow.*
- ▶ *Changes the way the benefit amount is calculated, affecting all unemployed workers at all prior earning levels.*

**UNBELIEVABLY, the proposal cuts off federally funded extended benefits on July 1, 2013. More than 80,000 workers in North Carolina who are eligible for benefits through the end of the year would be cut off. These benefits are 100% funded by the federal government and bring an estimated \$25 million a week into NC to help families try to make ends meet while unemployed. NO STATE HAS EVER DONE THIS.**

### NOTE:

HB 4 is **unfair & unbalanced**. Under this plan, 75% of the debt to the federal government will be repaid through cuts to unemployment benefits. These cuts, totaling \$2.7 billion and reducing the program by over 60%, will be **permanent**. The federal tax increases on businesses are **temporary**, ending in three years. Some businesses will get a state tax cut and others will see a minimal increase in new state taxes. **This is not shared sacrifice.**

For more information, contact:

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## **Groups Opposed to HB 4**

- ▶ **AARP NC**
- ▶ **Action for Children NC**
- ▶ **Action NC**
- ▶ **American Association of University Women of NC**
- ▶ **Covenant with NC's Children**
- ▶ **Disability Rights NC**
- ▶ **Good Work**
- ▶ **International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 391**
- ▶ **Legal Services of Southern Piedmont**
- ▶ **National Association of Social Workers – NC Chapter**
- ▶ **NCAE**
- ▶ **NC Advocates for Justice**
- ▶ **NC AFL-CIO**
- ▶ **NC Asset Alliance**
- ▶ **NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence**
- ▶ **NC Coalition to End Homelessness**
- ▶ **NC Council of Churches**
- ▶ **NC Housing Coalition**
- ▶ **NC Justice Center**
- ▶ **NC MomsRising**
- ▶ **NC NAACP**
- ▶ **NC NOW**
- ▶ **NC State A. Phillip Randolph Institute**
- ▶ **NC Women United**
- ▶ **Pisgah Legal Services**
- ▶ **State Employees Association of NC**
- ▶ **Working America**