February 14, 2023

Over 100 participating labor, community, immigrant, freelance and carceral justice organizations issue a memorandum of support for the Unemployment Bridge Program carried by Senator Jessica Ramos and Assemblywoman Karines Reyes. The Unemployment Bridge Program is a revenue-neutral, sustainable program that will help thousands of low-to-moderate income freelancers, cash earners, self-employed workers, immigrants and people in re-entry get access to unemployment compensation when they lose their job for no fault of their own.

The revenue-neutral program would cost $500 million and would be resourced through the Digital Ad Tax sponsored by Senator Gianaris which collects a small portion of annual revenues of digital advertising services from companies whose gross annual revenues from these services is $100 million or more. The Unemployment Bridge Program will bring in economic returns upwards of hundreds of millions across regions in New York state. Unlike NYS state unemployment insurance which has racial inequities built in, this program would serve 73 percent of people who are non-white.

The following organizations strongly urge that this legislation be included in the New York State SFY 2023-24 budget.

Signed,

United Auto Workers Region 9A
DC9
UFCW International Region 1
LiUNA Local 79
RWDSU
RWDSU UFCW Local 338
13th Forward
A Better Balance
Adhikaar
Alianza Agrícola
A Little Piece of Light
Black and Pink NYC
Brooklyn Emerge Inc
CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC, Inc.
Capital Area Relief & Liberation
Caribbean Equality Project
Carroll Gardens Nanny Association
Make the Road NY
Mixteca Organization, Inc
Movement For Justice in El Barrio
National Action Network NYC Chapter Second Chance Committee
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
National Writers Union
Neighbors Link
New Hour
New Hour Long Island
NEW Pride Agenda
New York Communities for Change (NYCC)
New York Immigration Coalition
New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
New York State Council of Churches
New York Taxi Workers Alliance
NICE, New Immigrant Community Empowerment
Northeast Dutchess Immigrant Services
Northeast New York Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health
For questions about this memorandum of support, please contact Fund Excluded Workers Campaign Manager Nishat Tabassum (nishat.tabassum@maketheroadny.org).