



POLICY BRIEF



UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS WITH THE COVID “RELIEF” BONUS

The Democrats and the Biden Administration have proposed a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 “relief” bill, which includes an additional \$300 to the maximum weekly benefits for Americans receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) through September 6, 2021. The House previously approved a \$400 bonus on February 27, 2021, which the Senate amended and passed on March 6, 2021. Due to this sizeable bonus to typical UI benefits, nearly half of these employees will receive benefits greater than their earnings.ⁱ In most states, the bonus UI results in income greater than the \$15 minimum wage that Democrats also support. Congress should focus on reopening our economy and allowing individuals to safely return to work.

The following chart shows how combined state and federal UI benefits equate to an hourly wage on a state-by-state basis.ⁱⁱ

State	Max. State Weekly Benefits	Democrats' COVID "Relief"	Total Max Combined Weekly Benefit	Total Benefits per hour (based on 40 hr/wk)	Weekly Dependent Allowance	Adjusted Hourly Unemployment Benefit Rate
Alabama	\$275	\$300	\$575	\$14.38		
Alaska	\$370	\$300	\$670	\$16.75	\$72	\$18.55
Arizona	\$240	\$300	\$540	\$13.50		
Arkansas	\$451	\$300	\$751	\$18.78		
California	\$450	\$300	\$750	\$18.75		
Colorado	\$597	\$300	\$897	\$22.43		
Connecticut	\$649	\$300	\$949	\$23.73	\$75	\$25.60
Delaware	\$400	\$300	\$700	\$17.50		
Florida	\$275	\$300	\$575	\$14.38		
Georgia	\$365	\$300	\$665	\$16.63		
Hawaii	\$648	\$300	\$948	\$23.70		
Idaho	\$414	\$300	\$714	\$17.85		
Illinois	\$471	\$300	\$771	\$19.28	\$178	\$23.70
Indiana	\$390	\$300	\$690	\$17.25		
Iowa	\$591	\$300	\$891	\$22.28	\$106	\$24.92
Kansas	\$488	\$400	\$888	\$22.20		
Kentucky	\$552	\$400	\$952	\$23.80		
Louisiana	\$247	\$300	\$547	\$13.68		

Maine	\$414	\$300	\$714	\$17.85	\$215	\$23.22
Maryland	\$430	\$300	\$730	\$18.25		
Massachusetts	\$823	\$300	\$1,123	\$28.08	\$397	\$38.00
Michigan	\$362	\$300	\$662	\$16.55	\$209	\$21.77
Minnesota	\$717	\$300	\$1,017	\$25.43		
Mississippi	\$235	\$300	\$535	\$13.38		
Missouri	\$320	\$300	\$620	\$15.50		
Montana	\$552	\$400	\$952	\$23.80		
Nebraska	\$440	\$300	\$740	\$18.50		
Nevada	\$450	\$300	\$750	\$18.75		
New Hampshire	\$427	\$300	\$727	\$18.18		
New Jersey	\$696	\$300	\$996	\$24.90		
New Mexico	\$492	\$300	\$792	\$19.80	\$50	\$21.05
New York	\$504	\$300	\$804	\$20.10		
North Carolina	\$350	\$300	\$650	\$16.25	\$50	\$17.50
North Dakota	\$618	\$300	\$918	\$22.95		
Ohio	\$647	\$300	\$947	\$23.68	\$155	\$27.55
Oklahoma	\$520	\$300	\$820	\$20.50		
Oregon	\$648	\$300	\$948	\$23.70		
Pennsylvania	\$572	\$300	\$872	\$21.80	\$8	\$22.00
Rhode Island	\$586	\$300	\$886	\$22.15	\$144	\$25.75
South Carolina	\$326	\$300	\$626	\$15.65		
South Dakota	\$414	\$300	\$714	\$17.85		
Tennessee	\$275	\$300	\$575	\$14.38		
Texas	\$521	\$300	\$821	\$20.53		
Utah	\$560	\$300	\$860	\$21.50		
Vermont	\$513	\$400	\$913	\$22.83		
Virginia	\$378	\$300	\$678	\$16.95		
Washington, DC	\$425	\$300	\$725	\$18.13		
Washington	\$790	\$300	\$1,090	\$27.25		
West Virginia	\$424	\$400	\$824	\$20.60		
Wisconsin	\$370	\$300	\$670	\$16.75		
Wyoming	\$508	\$300	\$808	\$20.20		

ⁱ <https://www.americanactionforum.org/research/state-unemployment-benefits-and-returning-to-work/>

ⁱⁱ Chart compiled by RPC using data from <https://fileunemployment.org/unemployment-benefits/unemployment-benefits-comparisonby-state/> (March 8, 2021)