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M&C Fwd: A Letter from Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

1 message

Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: Clerks Office <clerks@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: Rennae Meno <rennae@guamlegislature.org>

05-12-20	8:43 PM	05-12-20	Letter Requesting Legislative Action.*	Office of US Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nico

Sinseru yan Minagåhet,

Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

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Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensåhi. Solo espesiåtmente para hågu ma entensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespåtcha. Yang mensåhi , put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as speaker@guamlegislature.org yan despues destrosa todu siha I kopian mensåhi. Si Yu'os ma'åse'.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Winn, Jennifer** <Jennifer.Winn@mail.house.gov>
Date: Tue, May 12, 2020 at 8:43 PM
Subject: A Letter from Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
To: Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>, senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org <senatortcnelson@guamlegislature.org>, Office of Senator Shelton Guam Legislature <officeofs guamlegislature.org>, Office of Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD. <office.senatorkelly@guamlegislature.org>, Régine Biscoe Lee <senatorbiscoelee@guamlegislature.org>, Joe S. San Ag <senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com>, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>, sen.cridgell@teleguam.net <sen.cridgell@teleguam.net>, Senator Jose Pedo Terlaje <sen com>, Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>, wilcastro671@gmail.com <wilcastro671@gmail.com>, Senator Louise B. Muna <senatorlouise@gmail.com>, Senator Telo T. Taitag <senatortelot@gmail.com>, James Moylan <senatormoylan@guamlegislature.org>, senatormary@guamlegislature.org <senatormary@guamlegislature.org>
Cc: San Nicolas, Michael <Michael.SanNicolas@mail.house.gov>, Winn, Jennifer <Jennifer.Winn@mail.house.gov>

Hafa Adai, Senators,

Please see attached a letter from Congressman Michael San Nicolas.

I hope this email finds you all in good health and safety.

Should you have any questions, please contact us at michael.sannicolas@mail.house.gov.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase,

Jennifer Winn

District Deputy Chief of Staff

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Congress of the United States
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May 12, 2020

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Dear Senators,

Following my letter dated April 29, 2020, I write to once again urge legislative action to provide protections for our working population who have been greatly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and to safeguard the ability for our valued workers to avail of eligible federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits that we in Congress passed last month.

As previously mentioned, the Guam Legislature must address a possible problem for our COVID-19 impacted workers. To apply for temporary unemployment benefits provided by the federal government, the impacted worker is required to submit certification from their employer that their employment status was changed due to a qualified reason. Some local businesses, including those in the hotel and restaurant industry, have generously agreed to provide in advance to the Guam Department of Labor information and certification of their employees whose change in employment was caused directly by the coronavirus pandemic. In order for our local administering agency to process information quickly and provide immediate relief for our worker population, the local government must require registered local businesses, as a condition of maintaining its business license in Guam, to perform the following:

1) Report pandemic related unemployment to the Guam Department of Labor within five (5) business days of the law's passage, with reasonable exceptions; and

2) Provide the necessary certification required by the Guam Department of Labor of each individual employee impacted by the pandemic via furlough, unemployment, or a reduction in compensation or compensated hours, that would satisfy the Guam Department of Labor requirements to determine if such employee qualifies for unemployment compensation. Such certification must be provided to the impacted employee without any conditions.

Doc. No. 35GL-20-1792.*

Further, to deter local businesses from neglecting this mandated responsibility, it is strongly recommended to include penalty provisions, such as:

1) a fine by the Guam Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division of $1,000 for failing to notify the Guam Department of Labor of pandemic unemployment occurrences, and $500 for each occurrence an impacted employee does not receive such certification; and

2) rescinding or suspending business licenses to operate in Guam for failure to comply.

My office continues to receive numerous calls from our constituents concerned that they would not be able to apply for the temporary federal unemployment assistance program as their former employers are not bound to provide this information. I reiterate the urgency that we get ahead of a possible problem that would prevent hundreds, if not thousands, of our dedicated workers from qualifying for this critical federal program.

Respectfully,



Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress
Guam