STATE OF KANSAS

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 241 SOUTH
TOPEKA, KS 66612

PHONE: (785) 296-3232
GOVERNOR.KANSAS.GOV

GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-71

Temporary relief from certain unemployment insurance requirements
during state of disaster emergency

WHEREAS, securing the health, safety, and economic well-being of residents of the State of Kansas is this Administration's top priority;

WHEREAS, Kansas is facing a crisis - the pandemic and public health emergency of COVID-19-with effects of illness, quarantines, school closures, and temporary closure of businesses resulting in lost wages and financial hardship to Kansas citizens;

WHEREAS, the United States Departments of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19 beginning January 27, 2020, with now more than 18,170,000 cases of the illness and more than 321,000 deaths as a result of the illness across the United States;

WHEREAS, a State of Disaster Emergency was proclaimed for the State of Kansas on March 12, 2020, and the State Finance Council has extended the state of disaster emergency to January 10, 2021;

WHEREAS, as of this date, there have been over 209,689 positive cases of COVID-19 in Kansas, spread among all 105 counties and 2,507 deaths as a result of the illness;

WHEREAS, economic insecurity due to unemployment is a serious menace to the health, morals, and welfare of the people of Kansas, as expressed in K.S.A. 44-702 of the Kansas Employment Security Law;

WHEREAS, federal efforts to address unemployment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have included, and based on recent action by Congress are likely to continue to include, federal funding for certain unemployment benefits such as benefits to be paid during what would otherwise be deemed a "waiting week" period;

WHEREAS, this Administration will do whatever it can to assist Kansans in these challenging times, including providing relief that will help avoid immediate danger to the health, safety, and welfare of Kansans by providing greater access to state unemployment benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, including the authority granted me by K.S.A. 48-924 and K.S.A. 48-925(b), (c)(1), and (c)(11), in order to mitigate the effects of COVID-19, I hereby direct and order the following:

1. The waiting week requirement for unemployment benefits, provided for in K.S.A. 44-705(d), is temporarily waived for all claimants.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order 20-71. It shall become effective immediately and remain in force until rescinded or until the statewide State of Disaster Emergency extended by House Bill 2016 enacted during the June 2020 special session relating to COVID-19—and later extended by the State Finance Council—expires, whichever is earlier.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE BY THE GOVERNOR

DATED 12.23.2020

FILED
DEC 23 2020
SCOTT SCHWAB
SECRETARY OF STATE

Scott Schwab
Secretary of State

Jennifer Cooke
Assistant Secretary of State