

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATORS TODARO, LORIGO, GREENE, AND MILLS**

**Re: Support for the Help Wanted Act**

**WHEREAS**, America is facing a severe labor shortage as the economy begins to reopen and COVID restrictions are being lifted. Many states are returning to pre-COVID life; and

**WHEREAS**, the labor shortage is partly responsible for the recent spike in the rate of inflation and for the product shortages we are still experiencing; and

**WHEREAS**, The US has been comparatively successful in distributing the COVID-19 vaccines as a nation. Roughly 45% of the population in the United States are now fully vaccinated. In New York State, the percent of the population with at least one dose has exceeded 70%. It is impossible for the government to dictate how people feel about the risks of COVID-19. However, as more people become vaccinated and fewer cases of COVID-19 lead to hospitalizations, the fear of COVID-19 will subside; and

**WHEREAS**, increases in the federal minimum wage and the need to hire workers has led to a general increase in wages across the nation. Now the government needs to step up and encourage people to return to the workforce. Congressman Jacobs has introduced the Help Wanted Act to try and address some of the issue; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act requires three main goals. That every state reinstates the work-search requirement for unemployment benefits. This requires unemployment recipients to show proof of a job search to receive benefits. Many states had suspended that requirement during the height of the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act would further remove a provision from the CARES Act that allows people to collect unemployment benefits after voluntarily leaving their jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, finally, the Act would prohibit the use of generic concerns about COVID-19 as a reason for turning down offers of employment; and

**WHEREAS**, residents should be encouraged to return to the workforce before marketable skills are lost and they are not able to find employment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that this honorable body hereby urges the passage of the Help Wanted Act, H.R. 3148; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Western New York delegation to the United States Senate and House of Representative, President Joseph Biden, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution.