



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RYAN PETERS
ASSEMBLYMAN

JEAN STANFIELD
ASSEMBLYWOMAN

Dear Governor Murphy,

We are writing on behalf of every business and public entity in the 8th Legislative District and our state that is currently suffering from a worker shortage. Each of us has traveled up and down main streets, seen the "Help Wanted" signs and heard from business owners that they are struggling.

On a local level, our constituents are distressed over basic government services like getting their recycling picked up. Blue recycling bins line the street in our district because a driver shortage in the state has led to no workers willing and able to carry out bi-weekly recycling. When trash is piling up, everyone in the public becomes aware that there is a huge problem.

We believe you can help ease this issue with the stroke of a pen. We are urging you to reinstate the requirement that people who collect unemployment must search for work. Currently, people collecting benefits only have to certify that they are willing and able to work, but all the past requirements that they show proof they are looking for a job were ended during the pandemic.

New Jersey has been an outlier in the nation to how slow it has been to bring this requirement back. It is an important tool, not only for employers looking for employees, but for people on unemployment who may be encouraged to find their next career and better their lives.

There are no good reasons left for this state to continue to let people who are on unemployment skip having to search for work. We understood the safety issues during the pandemic, but numbers are the lowest they have been since it has started and vaccine rates are high. It is time to encourage our residents to get back to work and give them the life skills they need to live a successful and fulfilling life.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Peters".

Assemblyman Ryan Peters

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Stanfield".

Assemblywoman Jean Stanfield