

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1761

To end unemployment payments to jobless millionaires.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2025

Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. CURTIS) introduced the following bill; which  
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

---

## A BILL

To end unemployment payments to jobless millionaires.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Ending Unemployment  
5       Payments to Jobless Millionaires Act of 2025”.

6       **SEC. 2. ENDING UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS TO JOBLESS**  
7       **MILLIONAIRES.**

8       (a) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—

9               (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
10       provision of law, no Federal funds may be used—

11               (A) to make payments of unemployment  
12       compensation benefits under an unemployment

1 compensation program of the United States in  
2 a year to an individual whose wages during the  
3 individual's base period are equal to or exceed  
4 \$1,000,000; or

5 (B) for any administrative costs associated  
6 with making payments described in subpara-  
7 graph (A).

8 (2) COMPLIANCE.—

9 (A) SELF-CERTIFICATION.—Any applica-  
10 tion for unemployment compensation under an  
11 unemployment compensation program of the  
12 United States shall include a form or procedure  
13 for an individual applicant to certify that such  
14 individual's wages during the individual's base  
15 period do not equal or exceed \$1,000,000.

16 (B) VERIFICATION.—Each State agency  
17 that is responsible for administering any unem-  
18 ployment compensation program of the United  
19 States shall utilize available systems to verify  
20 wage eligibility by assessing claimant income to  
21 the degree possible.

22 (3) AUDITS.—The certifications required by  
23 paragraph (2) shall be auditable by the Department  
24 of Labor or the Government Accountability Office.

1           (4) RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENTS.—Each  
2       State agency that is responsible for administering  
3       any unemployment compensation program of the  
4       United States shall require individuals who have re-  
5       ceived amounts of unemployment compensation  
6       under such a program to which they were not enti-  
7       tled to repay such amounts.

8           (5) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The prohibition under  
9       paragraph (1) shall apply to weeks of unemployment  
10      beginning on or after the date of the enactment of  
11      this Act.

12      (b) PROHIBITION ON IMPOSING LIMITS ON  
13      STATES.—The Secretary of Labor shall not promulgate  
14      any regulation or issue any guidance that would limit a  
15      State’s ability to disqualify an individual from receiving  
16      unemployment compensation on the basis that such indi-  
17      vidual has wages during the individual’s base period that  
18      are equal or exceed \$1,000,000.

19      (c) UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM OF  
20      THE UNITED STATES DEFINED.—In this section, the  
21      term “unemployment compensation program of the United  
22      States” means—

23           (1) unemployment compensation for Federal ci-  
24      vilian employees under subchapter I of chapter 85 of  
25      title 5, United States Code;

1           (2) unemployment compensation for ex-  
2           servicemembers under subchapter II of chapter 85 of  
3           title 5, United States Code;

4           (3) extended benefits under the Federal-State  
5           Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970  
6           (26 U.S.C. 3304 note);

7           (4) any Federal temporary extension of unem-  
8           ployment compensation;

9           (5) any Federal program that increases the  
10          weekly amount of unemployment compensation pay-  
11          able to individuals; and

12          (6) any other Federal program providing for  
13          the payment of unemployment compensation, as de-  
14          termined by the Secretary of Labor.

○