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## **Employee, Employer Input Needed to Fix Unemployment System**

COLUMBUS – A handful of members of Ohio's House and Senate plan to meet to discuss House Bill 394, a bill that would change Ohio's unemployment insurance system by sharply cutting benefits for Ohio workers and reducing costs to Ohio employers. Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is pleased that state lawmakers are examining the unemployment legislation.

"We appreciate these legislators' willingness to take a closer look at the unemployment compensation system and the potential consequences of House Bill 394 for Ohio's workers," said Bill Sundermeyer, State Director of Advocates for Ohio's Future.

AOF believes that HB 394 hurts working Ohioans and their families. Instead, AOF recommends that legislators start over with a committee including stakeholders to craft balanced legislation that addresses the long-term solvency of Ohio's unemployment insurance system.

"The best path for this proposed legislation is to start over," said AOF Co-chair Lisa Hamler-Fugitt in a January press conference on House Bill 394. "Create a committee of stakeholders that includes the state, counties, employers, and employees to make recommendations on the unemployment insurance system. Requiring stakeholders to sit down together, understand the problems of each party, and recommend solutions that are supported by all groups will ensure a balanced and reasonable path for a sustainable unemployment insurance system in Ohio. "

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*Advocates for Ohio's Future is a statewide coalition of over 475 local and statewide organizations that promote health and human service budget and policy solutions so all Ohioans live better lives.*