



**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

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**\*\*\*STATEMENT\*\*\***

**Statement of Lt. Governor Gray on Extending Certain Unemployment Insurance Provisions Related to COVID-19**

**Montpelier, Vt.** —Today, Lt. Governor Gray released the following statement on her vote in favor of S.10, an act extending certain unemployment insurance provisions related to COVID-19.

“Today, I cast my vote in support of our businesses and working families who experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout this pandemic, our Vermont businesses and workforce have worked at great personal and financial loss to stay afloat and make ends meet. S.10 represents an effort to support our working families and small businesses who experienced job loss. For so many Vermonters, this pandemic has meant not only a loss of income and employment, but also a loss of livelihood.

Working families, especially working women, have been hardest hit. In November, women comprised roughly 73% of the unemployment claims filed, the largest percentage in any state in the country. In a state still struggling to close the pay gap, provide paid family leave, and access to affordable, quality childcare, Vermont women continue to take on the lion’s share of caregiving responsibilities. Vermont women also continue to dominate industries hardest-hit by pandemic closures. Over the last year, women have stepped up for communities and families at great economic loss.

For these reasons, I voted in support of S.10. Providing Vermonters with dependents, particularly women, with \$50 more per week will allow families a much-needed boost in their ability to endure this crisis, as well as inject stimulus into our local economy.

Finally, let us not be so misguided to think that limiting benefits to working women creates workforce development opportunities. Vermont women want to return to work. They want to do so safely. A stronger recovery means valuing working Vermonters, especially women, and all they do for our families, communities and economy.”

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