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**For Immediate Release**

## **Representative Alex Andrade Urges Governor DeSantis to Address Florida's Workforce Shortage, Ending Florida's Participation in Federal Pandemic-Related Unemployment Benefit Programs**

*Pensacola, FL* – Representative Alex Andrade sent a letter to Governor DeSantis and Department of Economic Opportunity Secretary Dane Eagle requesting help addressing Florida's workforce shortage, largely caused by Federal government subsidies in unemployment. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Andrade relayed the need to end federal pandemic unemployment benefits in Florida, and opt instead for a return-to-work bonus program similar to one recently enacted in Montana.

“Under your [Gov. DeSantis] leadership, Florida remains the freest state in the country and we're bouncing back at a record pace; yet President Biden's misguided Federal pandemic policies are again threatening to harm us.

...

Florida has over 400,000 job openings listed online today. “Help Wanted” signs are in the windows of every business in my district, and small businesses are closing their doors because they can't find staff. Businesses in my area are offering over \$20 per hour and bonuses for entry level positions just to keep their doors open.”

Federal unemployment assistance was supposed to be a short-term solution to help us survive during government shutdowns; but its extension is now incentivizing Floridians to not find work. Floridians aren't lazy, but excessive unemployment payments have killed the financial incentive to reenter the workforce.” Andrade said.

Rep. Andrade looks forward to Governor DeSantis' continued leadership for Florida's economic recovery, and will continue to work to address the harm caused by misguided Federal policies.

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*Letter attached*