

Department of Labor technical assistance provided to the Ways and Means Committee on May 15, 2020:

Response: The Department strongly opposes a change in the FPUC program that would base the amount paid on the amount an individual claimant was paid.

States have had extraordinary challenges in implementing a payment in a flat amount on top of benefit payments in multiple programs. States would find it exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to implement a unique payment amount in addition to the various benefit payments to which FPUC applies, from both a technology standpoint, but also with getting adequate information on which to determine the amount payable. This is particularly true for FPUC payments on top of the PUA benefits, where documentation of income has been very hard for claimants to provide and for states to secure from claimants.

We also note that for the self-employed population, there is no fixed weekly amount that self-employed individuals receive. The fixed weekly amount typically varies from week to week, which makes determining an appropriate payment amount challenging.