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To: Interested Parties

Subject: Support in Florida for Extending Federal Unemployment Insurance in Response to COVID-19

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A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that a majority (55%) of Florida voters think Congress should extend or increase the \$600 per week unemployment benefits in response to the economic downturn related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, just 15% think these extra unemployment benefits should be ended.

These voters who support extending or increasing unemployment insurance are also considerably more concerned with how their Senator votes on this issue than those who do not support extending the benefits.

- 70% of Floridians who think Congress should increase the extra unemployment benefits to more than \$600 per week say they would view Senator Marco Rubio less favorably if he voted against the extension. Just 19% say it wouldn't make a difference in their views of Rubio.
- Another 70% who think the same \$600 unemployment insurance should be extended say they would view Senator Rubio less favorably if he voted against the extension, while only 18% say it wouldn't make a difference.
- Over a third (35%) of voters who think the unemployment benefits should be decreased say Senator Rubio voting against unemployment insurance extension wouldn't make a difference in their view of him.
- 42% who think Congress should end the additional unemployment benefits say it wouldn't make a difference if Senator Rubio voted against the benefits extension.

Florida voters show strong support for prioritizing initiatives to help small businesses and struggling workers over bailouts for large corporations and other wealthy interests. A large



majority (88%) agree that Congress should prioritize small businesses and struggling workers, with 74% of those saying they strongly agree.

With a debate over whether or not Congress should extend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), just 10% of Floridians think Congress should extend the program as-is, and only 9% think it should be allowed to expire. With concerns over the PPP prioritizing wealthy and well-connected companies over small businesses, other voters think it should be reformed. A plurality (41%) think the program should be extended but fixed to prioritize small businesses, and another 34% think Congress should start over with a new program that is more transparent.

Other key findings in the survey include:

- 57% of Floridians think President Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic has made America less safe, while just 40% think America is safer.
- President Trump is underwater in approval of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and the economic downturn resulting from it: 55% disapprove of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, while only 42% approve. Another 53% disapprove of Trump's handling of the economic downturn during the coronavirus pandemic, while 43% approve.
- President Trump is also underwater in approval by 15 points overall in Florida (40-55).
- Senator Marco Rubio is unpopular in his home state, with his approval underwater by 20 points (31-51).

Public Policy Polling surveyed 609 Florida voters on July 31, 2020 on behalf of Accountable.US. The margin of error is +/- 4.0%. 59% of interviews for the survey were conducted by text message and 41% by telephone.