To amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.
A BILL

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Building on Reemploy-
ment Improvements to Deliver Good Employment for Work-
ers Act” or the “BRIDGE for Workers Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public
Law 115-123) improved program accountability for
effectively serving unemployed workers and made a
significant new investment in reemployment services.

(2) Research shows the longer workers are out of
work, the harder it can be to maintain their skills,
professional network, and stable home life.

(3) Reemployment services give workers who
might otherwise struggle to find new jobs the tools
that they need to get back to work—such as individ-
ualized career counseling and job search help as well
as local labor market information—and they can
serve as an entry point to the workforce development
system.

(4) Reemployment services have been dem-
onstrated to reduce the number of weeks that program
participants receive unemployment benefits by im-
proving their employment outcomes, including earnings.

(5) Unemployment benefits replace less than half of working income, on average, so workers who find new jobs quickly suffer less financial hardship.

(6) Combining targeted reemployment services with unemployment benefits helps keep people attached to the labor force who might otherwise become discouraged and drop out.

(7) The Congressional Budget Office estimates that, over time, investments in reemployment services create savings for taxpayers and unemployment trust funds by reducing spending on unemployment benefits.

(8) Many different types of workers can benefit from reemployment services. Reemployment services should be used to shorten the duration of unemployment for workers even if they are not projected to fully exhaust their unemployment benefits.

SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

Section 306(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 506(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “individuals referred to reemployment services as described in section 303(j)” and inserting “claimants for unemployment compensa-
tion, including claimants referred to reemployment services as described in section 303(j),”; and

(2) by striking “such individuals” and inserting “such claimants”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.”.