



Tuesday, February 16, 2021

United States Senate and House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

Businesses, small to large, across the nation have exponentially suffered as the result of COVID, and have been forced to cut jobs and even close their doors permanently. One of the looming costs is the significant impact on the unemployment insurance fund. To prevent further loss, we respectfully ask Congress to consider the following:

- Transfer of funds to state UI trust funds equal to the amount of benefits paid due to COVID.
- Delay the application of the FUTA offset credit reduction for a year.
- Reduce or waive interest fees.
- Grant loan extension etc. to the 18 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands that have not only *exhausted* their state unemployment (UI) fund reserves in the wake of the pandemic, but have borrowed over \$48 billion dollars (as of January 25, 2021) from the Federal-State Unemployment Compensation "UC" Program to continue providing jobless benefits.

Unlike federal UI benefits, state UI benefits remain financed by state payroll taxes and are expected to rise sharply in the coming years. This will increase taxes on a per-employee basis, which will disincentive hiring employees and slow business recovery. In their weakened state, many more businesses will shut their doors for good under these tax increases.

It is the belief of this coalition that it is neither right nor fair to hold employers *solely* responsible for replenishing state reserves and paying down federal loans. Our state unemployment systems were originally designed to be 100% funded by employers to provide jobless benefits as a result of *business* decisions. The pandemic and the ensuing shutdowns were not business decisions. The mass shutdowns were *societal* decisions responding to an *unforeseen* catastrophe and the unemployment system was stretched beyond its original intent in order to deliver economic relief to the masses.

As such, we respectfully ask Congress to consider the above stated. This will help to alleviate undue financial hardships on our business communities and help rebuild economies and restore jobs across the nation.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



**Allan Zarembeg**  
President & CEO  
California Chamber of  
Commerce (CalChamber)



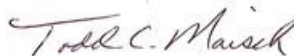
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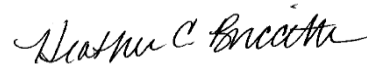
**Doug Loon**  
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Commerce



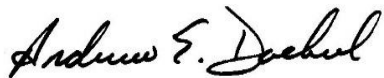
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