

Testimony of the National Federation of Independent Business Leadership Council

By

Kevin B. Maloney, Chairman

Before

The Labor and Public Employees Committee

RE: H.B. 5314 (COMM) AND ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS ON ADVANCES FROM THE FEDERAL
UNEMPLOYMENT ACCOUNT

We are writing to encourage the passage of H.B. 5314, which proposes to take some amount of money from the anticipated General Fund surplus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 and pay any interest due on advances made to the state from the federal unemployment account under Title XII of the Social Security Act 42 USC.

While the administration's efforts to provide financial aid to certain small businesses are laudable, those efforts help only a tiny percentage of the small business community at large. This proposed effort not only benefits all businesses, but the percentage of the overall savings that each company realizes would, we assume, mirror their portion of the assessments, an eminently fair allocation of the benefit. This is in our opinion a way to at least send a positive message to the business community, and in particular to the small business community; and the message is that the State recognizes their shared sacrifice when that sacrifice was necessary and is willing to mitigate those sacrifices to some degree by sharing the unanticipated windfall with those that have incurred years of additional assessments in order to satisfy the State's obligations.