

**BRIEF STATEMENT OF GLENN MARSHALL, PRESIDENT OF CARPENTER'S LOCAL  
210, IN OPPOSITION TO BILL 100, AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY AND  
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS BEFORE THE GAE COMMITTEE**

**February 22, 2016**

Good afternoon, Senator Cassano and Representative Jutila and members of the GAE Committee. My name is Glenn Marshall, and I am the President of Carpenter's Local 210 and former Connecticut Commissioner of Labor. I am here to testify in opposition to Substitute Bill 100, An Act Concerning Eligibility and Unemployment Compensation Benefits.

First, I want to thank the Committee for excluding construction workers from its most recent version of this proposal. As you know, construction is by its nature a very cyclical, sporadic industry, but I still have concerns about the bill. By changing the current method of determining what a person collects from averaging the two highest quarters of a claimant's earnings during their current benefit year's base period to averaging four quarters will have not only a negative impact on what an individual will collect on a weekly basis, but in the aggregate negatively impact the state's economy as well. Many studies have shown that unemployment compensation is one of the biggest stimulators to the state's economy.

Unemployment benefits provide a lifeline to the jobless when they need it the most. When people have more money in their pockets, they spend more and pay more taxes. In closing, if the legislature were to pass this bill, Connecticut would be the outlier state, since New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont all use the highest two quarters for their system.

When it isn't broke, don't try and fix it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.