



Connecticut Department of Labor

Scott D. Jackson, Commissioner

**Public Hearing Testimony of
Scott Jackson, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 14, 2017**

Good Afternoon Senator Gomes, Senator Miner, Representative Porter, Representative Bocchino and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding **House Bill No. 611 AAC the Charging of Unemployment Compensation Benefits to Employers**. My name is Scott Jackson and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

Although the language in this bill is limited, it appears to exempt an employer from whom an employee has left voluntarily from charges related to the individual's subsequent separation from employment with a different employer. However, this is already being done with taxable employers. Generally, as long as a taxable employer timely and accurately submits a statement as to the facts of the voluntary separation, the employer is relieved of the charges.

As with any proposal that impacts the Unemployment Compensation Act, this proposal should be reviewed in the context of a comprehensive reform package concerning **both** the eligibility for and the financing of unemployment compensation benefits. Without comprehensive reform, the Trust Fund will descend further into insolvency which will undoubtedly lead to greater taxes for employers and the need to borrow from the federal government.

Finally, this change would require significant automation initiatives that would necessitate DOL having to stop most current and future automation efforts to address the required modifications. If it were to pass, additional funding would be necessary to implement the information technology modifications and existing federal grant funds could be jeopardized.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.