

Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

I am paying 5 times more than I've paid in the past. Small businesses can't afford this outrageous amount & survive!

As a Massachusetts small business owner trying to recover from the pandemic, I cannot afford additional unemployment insurance tax increases. The current UI taxes are already some of the worst in the nation and to pile on additional increases will hurt job creation and economic growth.

While many states have used federal aid to replenish UI trust funds, Massachusetts has not committed any money for UI. Instead, they require small businesses to pay higher UI taxes for the next 20 years to pay down the trust fund deficit.

I understand this commission has discussed raising the wage base as a potential solution. But in reality, this commission must also discuss unemployment benefits and eligibility as well. Massachusetts has the most generous UI benefits in the nation and some of the loosest eligibility requirements and this must be taken into consideration too. Employers are the ones who pay UI taxes, and we deserve relief!

The Massachusetts Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is facing a \$7 billion deficit. Requiring employers to pay the bill for the entire COVID UI crisis would mean one of the largest tax increases in recent Massachusetts history. To add additional tax hikes on top of the COVID-related increases would harm my small business and result in fewer job opportunities for workers.

We strongly urge the UI Trust Fund Study Commission to examine all the reasons the Massachusetts Trust Fund is insolvent, including our highest in the nation benefits, 30-week duration, and lax eligibility requirements. Small businesses cannot afford constantly rising UI taxes during this recovery. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alfred Lemieux

Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

We are still trying to recover from the forced shutdowns and higher taxes will cripple us. Please give us some help, not the opposite like this.

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Sincerely,

Andrew Laurence

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Sincerely,

Eric Andlauer

Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

use the federal funds....which is our money

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Sincerely,

Georgeann Kruzel

Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

We run a seasonal business on Cape Cod, last year when we were allowed to open we had difficulty hiring because of the easy unemployment rules. This year it is far worse and the state has not overruled the federal unemployment rules like so many other states have, even though every regulator in their district has seen every business with help wanted signs. We need to reform of unemployment! Our business gets a few applications each week with bogus emails and phone numbers of individuals who try put in an application to show they are "looking for work". They know how to beat the system. Our customers and your tax revenue are the ones getting getting beat. Please make it a UI system that works for the people, who need it, not the the people who are trying to get money and not working for it.

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Sincerely,

Greg Stone

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Jason Villa

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Sincerely,

Jeanne Bell



Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

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Sincerely,

john sullivan

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Sincerely,

John Woodford

Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

Hi folks,

I am writing to implore you to use money obtained from the Federal government in order to pay down this shortfall. It is unfair to ask small business owners who are still reeling from the downturn, a downturn which Charlie Baker's shutdown directly caused, to be socked with a huge monthly bill. The law as it existed previously was already onerous to those of us who pay hundreds of dollars per employee to provide health insurance to our staffs. Why should we have to pay for other people's employees, when we are already doing our part by insuring ours? Now it is proposed to massively increase this already unfair burden. That will be crushing to many of us, and will undoubtedly lead to job losses, which will add further strain to the already depleted fund. Federal funds already granted to the Commonwealth exist for just this sort of relief, and it is fitting and proper that you should direct the funds to that purpose.

Thank you,

Joseph Seely

CEO

Micro Works Solutions Center

Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

As a Massachusetts small business owner trying to recover from the pandemic, I cannot afford additional unemployment insurance tax increases. The current UI taxes are already some of the worst in the nation and to pile on additional increases will hurt job creation and economic growth. Continued escalation in taxes for shut downs that were mandated on small businesses through NO fault of their own are driving businesses out of Massachusetts.

While many states have used federal aid to replenish UI trust funds, Massachusetts has not committed any money for UI. Instead, they require small businesses to pay higher UI taxes for the next 20 years to pay down the trust fund deficit. I had very few layoffs during the pandemic, as we are an essential business. Not only am I being asked to pay higher taxes to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, but will need to pay more federal taxes to pay off these stimulus packages.

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Sincerely,

Marisa Picone-Devine

Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

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Sincerely,

Matthew Fontaine

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Michael Covell

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Sincerely,

Michael Kane

Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

As a small business we did what was right during the pandemic, we closed our doors for months, we protected our team, our customers, our community. It is time for the legislature to do the same and protect their small business community from the costs of UI that are no fault of our own. Small business should not have to bear the brunt of the cost through a 20 year loan.

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Sincerely,

Neil Abrmason



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Sincerely,

Richard Carbonneau

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Sincerely,

Robert Medeiros

Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

Please, please, please don't. I am trying to save the jobs of my employees and help their families.

As a Massachusetts small business owner trying to recover from the pandemic, I cannot afford additional unemployment insurance tax increases. The current UI taxes are already some of the worst in the nation and to pile on additional increases will hurt job creation and economic growth.

We pay over 10% and are a service company, so most of our expenses are payroll and taxes. This is an unfair burden which will affect our business and therefore our employees (most of which have been with us for over 30 years). Laying them off due to this increase would be awful for their families.

Thank you.

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Sincerely,

Stephen Evans

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Sincerely,

Stephen Ingle

Dear UI Trust Fund Study,

We are a manpower intensive business, salary is the biggest expense and if UI goes up, we are stuck as we can not increase the rates as we serve elderly population and they live on limited fixed income.

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Sincerely,

Sumit Madan

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William Fabbri