

Hello Co-Chairs Senator Pat Jehlen and Representative Josh Cutler.

Thank you for your service and for this opportunity to testify. My name is Paul Ruseau. I live in Medford, MA 02155. I am a member of the Medford School Committee.

The federal pandemic relief money should support greater investments in education and local infrastructure. Please do not allow use of federal pandemic relief money to pay off a big business unemployment insurance tax break. I ask the commission to create legislative recommendations that support [equitable unemployment tax and benefit reform](#).

The Massachusetts unemployment insurance system was not ready for 2008. It was not ready for 2020. Fiscal and social crises will happen again. The federal government supplemented benefits this time around; because of the ever increasing polarization of the country federal help is not guaranteed for the future.

Massachusetts needs to create a program that works for families now and going forward.

Thank you Senator and Representative, your staff, the Workforce and Labor committee, and commission members for your time.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Ruseau
Member, Medford School Committee

Hello Co-Chairs Senator Pat Jehlen and Representative Josh Cutler.

Thank you for your service and for this opportunity to testify. My name is Miranda Briseño. I live in Medford.

The federal pandemic relief money sent to the Commonwealth should support greater investments in education and local infrastructure. Please do not allow the use of federal pandemic relief money to pay off a big business unemployment insurance tax break. I ask the commission to create legislative recommendations that support [equitable unemployment tax and benefit reform](#). Other states like California have used federal pandemic relief funds to pay off rent and mortgage debt or student loan debt. Investing in our education system and crumbling infrastructure needed to recovery from COVID-19 and establish resilience in the wake of our climate crisis are much better ways to ensure the residents of the Commonwealth are healthy and able to thrive.

The Massachusetts unemployment insurance system was not ready for 2008. It was not ready for 2020. Fiscal and social crises will happen again. The federal government supplemented benefits this time around; because of the ever increasing polarization of the country federal help is not guaranteed for the future. Massachusetts needs to create a program that works for families now and going forward.

Thank you, Senator and Representative, your staff, the Workforce and Labor committee, and commission members for your time.

Miranda Briseño

Pronouns: she, her, hers (What's this? Learn more: www.mypronouns.org)

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