

Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Study Commission

MINUTES

NINTH MEETING OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021

Time: 1 PM

Attendees: Chairs Josh Cutler and Patricia Jehlen, Kelsey Cintolo, Brooke Thompson, Rich Marlin, Jon Hurst, Chris Carlozzi, Karen Andreas, Eileen McAnney, Steve Clark, Evan Horowitz, Diana Estime, Rosalin Acosta, Dan Wolf, Carolyn Ryan, Christopher Anderson, Stephanie Herron Rice, John Drinkwater, Sam Gebru, Hannah Tanabe

Also Attending: Matt Blackbourn, Robert Cohen, Emily Reynolds, Matt Hartman, Cole Angley, Lilla Adams

- I. **Welcome Remarks.** Brief remarks made by Chair Patricia Jehlen

- II. **Roll Call and Approval of Minutes.** Chair Jehlen presided over a roll call vote to approve the minutes from the November 9th meeting, the minutes were approved unanimously.

- III. **Recap of Prior Meetings.** Chair Jehlen provided an outline of the commission's activities since May.

- IV. **Presentation.** Matt Hartman of Chair Jehlen's staff presented on two models developed with Evan Horowitz to predict potential effects of raising the taxable wage base to \$45K and \$55K. Evan Horowitz discussed projections of how changes in the taxable wage base would affect the distribution of trust fund contributions for different industry clusters.

- V. **Discussion of Voting Procedure.** Commission chairs proposed that votes of the commission should require a 2/3rds majority to succeed. After brief discussion, commission members agreed to this condition.

VI. **Discussion of Commission Principles.** Commission chairs proposed two principles to guide commission decisions: 1. The Trust Fund should achieve an Average High Cost Multiple of one; and 2. Changes in UI should increase equity for small businesses or at least not decrease equity. After an amendment to change the first principle to say “The goal of the trust fund is to achieve a high cost multiple of 1.0 over time,” the commission voted 19 – 0 to adopt this first principle.

VII. **Commission Next Steps.** Chairs proposed the submission of a progress report on December 15th, which would be filed as a place holder for the final report. Committee members discussed the need for additional information before being able to do a final report and recommendations. Chairs and members requested expedited information about bonding and trust fund condition. The commission staff and chairs will write a skeleton report to provide members. There will be a final commission meeting to vote on amendments to the report and to approve the skeleton report, after which point commission staff will draft the final report based on the commission’s decisions.

VIII. **Vote on Second Principle.** Commission members discussed issues around the lack of clarity with certain language around equity in the second principle. There was further concern around whether the second principle could or could not be derived from the statutory charge of the commission. The principle was not adopted by a vote of 2/3, resulting in a vote of 10 in favor, 7 against, 3 abstaining.

IX. **Adjournment.** The Commission Adjourned at 3 PM