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Senator Patricia D. Jehlen, Senate Chair
Representative Paul Brodeur, House Chair
Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
State House
Boston, MA 02133

HB1648 - An Act relative to protecting the solvency of the Massachusetts UI system

Dear Chair Jehlen, Chair Brodeur, and Committee members:

Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM), on behalf of its member companies, submits this testimony to the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. We support a repeal of the unlimited extension of unemployment insurance benefits to locked out workers as was approved late in 2018.

Our request for a repeal of this law arises out of a concern for the integrity of the UI system.

AIM believes that this legislation, by targeting a specific type of labor dispute, could both slow negotiations and thereby sets an unwise precedent of the General Court involving itself in these matters. Additionally, AIM is concerned about the potential for this legislation to expand the scope of the unemployment insurance system, which was never intended to be used as a tool to resolve labor disputes.

Fortunately, the circumstances that gave rise to this law have been resolved, we believe it appropriate to repeal it.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and AIM urges that the committee provide HB1648 with a favorable report.

As always, should you have any questions please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Katherine E. Holahan
Vice-President, Government Affairs
Associated Industries of Massachusetts