

Albany Office
Legislative Office Bldg.
Room 406
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-3411
Fax: (518) 426-6973

District Office
90-B West Main Street
Patchogue, NY 11772
Phone: (631) 360-3356
Fax: (631) 289-1035

Email
murray@nysenate.gov

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



DEAN MURRAY
SENATOR, 3RD DISTRICT

Ranking Minority Member
Commerce, Economic
Development and Small Business
Libraries
Social Services

Committees
Budget and Revenue
Codes
Higher Education

December 17, 2024

Dear Governor Hochul:

While we appreciate your concern about inflation and its impact on New Yorkers, as members of the Senate Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business Committee, we respectfully ask that you consider another approach to bringing relief. One of the biggest drivers of inflation is when businesses face added expenses and need to raise prices to offset those expenses. During the pandemic, New York was forced to borrow billions of dollars from the federal government to cover the cost of unemployment. Instead of following the lead of 37 other states and immediately paying off the loan, the decision was made to have New York's businesses and employers pay it off over time, through the Unemployment Insurance Assessment Surcharge (UIAS). We would strongly encourage you to remove this massive added expense on businesses and employers by immediately paying off the balance of the money borrowed from the Federal Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Paying off the loan will eliminate the need for the UIAS that is currently costing employers hundreds of millions of dollars a year. Eliminating that massive expense will allow those businesses and employers to pass the savings on to consumers, by reducing the costs of goods and services. This will not be a one-shot savings, but instead, will help New Yorkers save on an ongoing basis every time they go shopping for those goods or services.

There is also another benefit to taking this approach. In addition to helping everyday New Yorkers save, this will also send a strong message to New York businesses, that we do care and we want to help them succeed. Currently, employers, including businesses, local governments, hospitals and not-for-profits, are shouldering the burden of this surcharge, on which the interest alone was appropriated at \$250 million in the FY

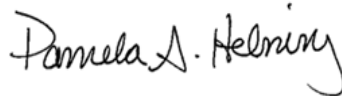
2025 Enacted Budget. Recognizing that the current UI deficit was not caused by the actions of any one employer, but rather by the government mandated shut down of the economy in response to Covid-19 Pandemic, it is only just and fair that employers not have to shoulder these costs.

Thank you for your time and we hope you will consider our approach to providing ongoing relief to both taxpayers and the business community.

Sincerely,



Dean Murray, SD3
Member of Senate



Pamela Helming, SD54
Member of Senate



George Borrello, SD57
Member of Senate