



Dated: 2/15/10

## **Association Of Washington Business (AWB) Unemployment Insurance Alert**

*The following is a legislative alert from the Association of Washington Business' Government Affairs Director, Donna Steward. If you have questions regarding the content of this alert, Donna may be contacted at (360) 943-1600 or (800) 521-9325.*

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### **Even Higher UI Taxes? Enough Is Enough!**

Governor's Plan To Expand UI Benefits Could Spell Disaster For WA Businesses.

Lawmakers are considering costly benefit expansions in the unemployment insurance (UI) system that will raise UI taxes even higher than they are now.

Every Washington state employer experienced an increase in their UI taxes this year, and many experienced increases exceeding 500 percent. These taxes are projected to increase again next year just due to the slower-than-predicted economic recovery. Now Governor Gregoire wants to add more costs that will increase these taxes even more!

Employers need to send a strong message now to both the governor and the Legislature:

- Don't expand benefits for part-time employees.
- Don't expand benefits to individuals who voluntarily quit their jobs.
- Don't increase the benefit multiplier to increase weekly benefit payments.
- Don't increase weekly benefit payments.

The governor recently stated that she wanted to "do no harm" to our economy or our employers. But each of these changes – all endorsed by Governor Gregoire – will most certainly harm the economy because it will raise employer taxes. That means more businesses will be looking to cover more costs at a time when many are just getting by.

The Governor's proposed benefit increases will jeopardize jobs, prevent employers from hiring new people, and threaten the stability of thousands of employers of all sizes statewide.

Call the Legislative Hotline at (800) 562-6000 and tell Governor Gregoire, "Enough is enough! More employer costs will jeopardize jobs. Don't make any changes to the UI system!"

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*Questions on any of the topics addressed in this "WALP Watch"? Contact the WALP Office at [info@walp.org](mailto:info@walp.org) or (425) 967-0729.*