



THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

*Retail Merchants*



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December 5, 2016

The Honorable Cliff Rosenberger  
Speaker  
Ohio House of Representatives  
33 S. High St., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Speaker Rosenberger:

We write to express our collective support for the unemployment compensation amendments proposed by House leadership. The amendments include: a two year benefit freeze starting in 2018, a two year temporary increase in the taxable wage base from \$9,000 to \$9,500, and the removal of House Bill 390 penalty payback provisions. The proposal also requires our groups to work towards unemployment compensation system solvency solutions in early 2017.

We are disappointed that we were unable to reach provisions that would create long-term solvency to Ohio's unemployment system. Our organizations are committed to addressing this critical issue and will work in good faith with interested parties to find a fair, workable solution.

Our collective organizations are committed to a timeline to provide workable solutions prior to April 1, 2017. In addition, we commit to help fund, along with interested parties, a third party actuary to provide analysis and expertise during deliberations early next year.

We are hopeful that all interested parties will come to the table in an earnest fashion to address the solvency issue. Thank you for your support of this meaningful and necessary economic protection for Ohio employers and workers.

Sincerely,

**Eric L. Burkland**  
President  
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association

**Andrew E. Doehrel**  
President & CEO  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce

**Roger R. Geiger**

Vice President & Executive Director  
National Federation Independent Business, Ohio

**Gordon M. Gough**

President & CEO  
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

**Adam Sharp**

Executive Vice President  
Ohio Farm Bureau