



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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August 19, 2021

The Honorable Phillip D. Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy,

On behalf of the businesses in District 37, I am requesting relief from the scheduled \$250 million increase in employer unemployment taxes. The Department of Labor has informed businesses that their rates will begin increasing on October 1, 2021 for each employee. Many other states have used federal funds from the American Rescue Plan to eliminate or defray employer tax increases, and New Jersey should do the same. The tax increase will hamper New Jersey's economic recovery and resilience in the face of the pandemic.

The depletion of the Unemployment Trust Fund was caused by the shutdowns required to fight Covid-19 and prevent the spread of the deadly virus. It was not due to the actions of individual employers, yet they will be penalized for taking the responsible steps. Any tax increase should be linked to improved services from the Department of Labor. The public still cannot visit an unemployment office in person to resolve a problem with a claim or employer account.

Again, I urge you to use federal funding to prevent a tax increase on jobs. We should be taking additional steps to promote hiring and strengthen New Jersey's economy. Also, it is far past time for the Department of Labor to reopen their unemployment offices so that constituents and employers can fix problems in days instead of months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon M. Johnson'.

Gordon M. Johnson
Speaker Pro Tempore
Assemblyman, District 37