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Secretary Newson: Hearing an Opportunity for Employers, Workers to Suggest Improvements to UI System

Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council seeks public input for enhancements

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced that Wisconsin's Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council (UIAC) will hold a public hearing October 30 to allow employers and stakeholders an opportunity to suggest improvements to Wisconsin's Unemployment Insurance (UI) system.

"Under Governor Scott Walker's leadership, DWD has moved forward to develop innovative reforms that will align workforce services towards a positive employment outcome for Wisconsin residents," said Secretary Newson. "I encourage employers and workers to attend this hearing at one of our many locations statewide to voice their opinion on the state's unemployment insurance system and provide suggestions that will better enable Wisconsin to fulfill the mission of unemployment insurance in providing short-term, partial relief to unemployed workers."

The council consists of employer and employee representatives who develop recommendations which are sent to the Legislature for consideration. With the public hearing on October 30, the UIAC will begin the process for the upcoming legislative session. The council will hear testimony from 2:30 to 4:30PM and 6 to 7:30PM.

Gathering public input is an integral part of the UIAC's charge in developing suggested improvements for Wisconsin's UI program. Improvements passed into law in the last legislative session included provisions that toughened penalties for those fraudulently collecting benefits, tightened benefit eligibility to prevent those working more than 32 hours or making more than \$500 in a week from collecting benefits, expanding the ability of DWD to recover overpayments from state and federal tax returns, and supporting the Wisconsin Workers Win (W3) workforce training program.

Individuals who wish to participate in the hearing can visit one of the following video conferencing sites:

- University of Wisconsin-Extension Pyle Center, Room 227, 702 Langdon St., Madison
- Chippewa Valley Technical College Business Education Center, Room 171B, 620 West Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire
- UW-Green Bay, Room 1S1034, 2420 Nicolet Dr., Green Bay
- UW-Milwaukee, Lubar Hall, Room S250, 3202 North Maryland Ave., Milwaukee
- Northcentral Technical College, Center for Health Sciences, Room CHS 1004, 1000 West Campus Dr., Wausau
- Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, Conference Center B, Room C-108, 600 North 21st St., Superior
- UW-La Crosse, Wing Technology Center, Room 104, 1725 State St., La Crosse

Those who wish to submit comments can e-mail UILawChange@dwd.wisconsin.gov or write to Janell Knutson, Chair, Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council, P.O. Box 8942, Madison, WI 53708 by November 15th.

For more information, please visit <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uibola/UIAC/pubhearings/2012.htm>.