

Petition to Governor Murphy to Call a Special Legislative Session to Prevent a Payroll Tax Increase on Employers, Repay Debt & Restore Stability to the Unemployment Insurance Fund

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section I, paragraph 4 of the New Jersey Constitution requires the Governor to call a special session of the Legislature upon petition by 21 members of the State Senate and 41 members of the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, only four states in the nation have a higher rate of unemployment than New Jersey;

WHEREAS, a record number of New Jersey employers have ceased operations permanently since the onset of COVID-19 due to government restrictions;

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund has a \$159 million deficit as of August 31, 2021, which the Administration of Governor Philip D. Murphy projects will grow to \$1 billion by June 30, 2022;

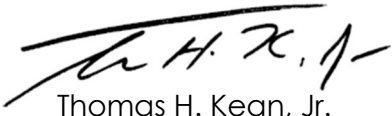
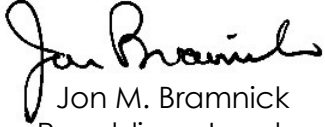
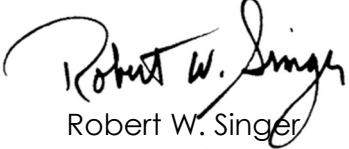



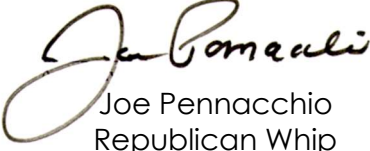


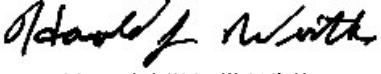
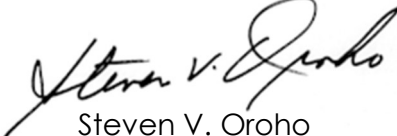
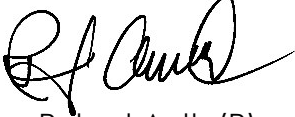
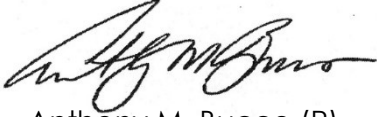

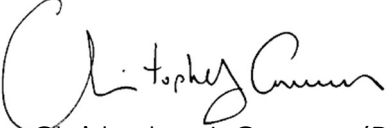

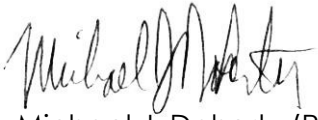



WHEREAS, the money borrowed by the State of New Jersey from the federal government to continue paying unemployment benefits from the Fund will begin accruing interest at a rate of 2.3% as of September 6, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Governor has insisted on raising payroll taxes in October on employers still contending with the economic impact of the pandemic as his solution to stabilize the Fund;



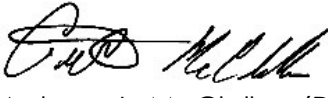


WHEREAS, raising taxes on struggling employers will lead to more business failures and unemployed workers and greater stress on the Fund; and

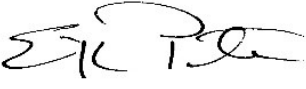

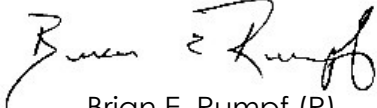


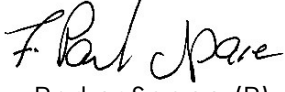


WHEREAS, alternatives to payroll tax increases exist, including, but not limited to, appropriation of unspent funds from billions in federal pandemic relief block grants delivered to New Jersey and the redirection or reprioritization of discretionary spending in the current fiscal year budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following legislators petition Governor Philip D. Murphy to call a special session of the Legislature in September or as soon as feasible thereafter pursuant to Article IV, Section I, paragraph 4 of the New Jersey Constitution for the purpose of adopting legislative solutions to prevent \$1 billion of payroll tax increases, repaying Unemployment Fund debt, and restoring the health of the Fund.

Members of the Senate	Members of the General Assembly
1.  Thomas H. Kean, Jr. Republican Leader	1.  Jon M. Bramnick Republican Leader
2.  Robert W. Singer Deputy Republican Leader	2.  Nancy F. Munoz Republican Conference Leader
3.  Kristin M. Corrado Republican Conference Leader	3.  John DiMaio Republican Conference Leader
4.  Joe Pennacchio Republican Whip	4.  Edward H. Thomson III Republican Whip
5.  Christopher "Kip" Bateman Deputy Republican Whip	5.  Harold "Hal" Wirths Republican Budget Officer
6.  Steven V. Oroho Republican Budget Officer	6.  Robert Auth (R) 39 th Legislative District
7.  Anthony M. Bucco (R) 25 th Legislative District	7.  Brian Bergen (R) 25 th Legislative District
8.  Christopher J. Connors (R) 9 th Legislative District	8.  John Catalano (R) 10 th Legislative District
9.  Michael J. Doherty (R) 23 rd Legislative District	9.  Robert D. Clifton (R) 12 th Legislative District
10.  James W. Holzapfel (R) 10 th Legislative District	10.  Ronald S. Dancer (R) 12 th Legislative District
<p align="center">Petition to Governor Murphy to Call a Special Legislative Session to Prevent a Payroll Tax Increase on Employers, Repay Debt & Restore Stability to the Unemployment Insurance Fund</p>	



Members of the Senate	Members of the General Assembly
11.  Declan O'Scanlon (R) 13 th Legislative District	11.  Betty Lou DeCroce (R) 26 th Legislative District
12.  Holly Schepisi (R) 39 th Legislative District	12.  DeAnne DeFuccio (R) 39 th Legislative District
13.  Michael L. Testa, Jr. (R) 1 st Legislative District	13.  Christopher P. DePhillips (R) 40 th Legislative District
14.  Samuel D. Thompson (R) 12 th Legislative District	14.  Serena DiMaso (R) 13 th Legislative District
15.	15.  Aura K. Dunn (R) 25 th Legislative District
16.	16.  DiAnne C. Gove (R) 9 th Legislative District
17.	17.  Sean T. Kean (R) 30 th Legislative District
18.	18.  Antwan L. McClellan (R) 1 st Legislative District
19.	19.  Gregory P. McGuckin (R) 10 th Legislative District
20.	20.  Ryan E. Peters (R) 8 th Legislative District
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Members of the Senate	Members of the General Assembly
21.	21.  Erik Peterson (R) 23 rd Legislative District
22.	22.  Kevin J. Rooney (R) 40 th Legislative District
23.	23.  Brian E. Rumpf (R) 9 th Legislative District
24.	24.  Gerry Scharfenberger (R) 13 th Legislative District
25.	25.  Erik K. Simonsen (R) 1 st Legislative District
26.	26.  Parker Space (R) 24 th Legislative District
27.	27.  Jean Stanfield (R) 8 th Legislative District
28.	28.  Jay Webber (R) 26 th Legislative District
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Members of the Senate	Members of the General Assembly
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	Members of the General Assembly
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About the Petition

This petition is administered jointly by the Senate Republican Office (SRO) and the Assembly Republican Office (ARO) on behalf of the members of their respective caucuses pursuant to Article IV, Section I, paragraph 4 of the New Jersey Constitution.

Any member of the New Jersey Legislature who wishes to sign the petition may submit their electronic signature file to Christine Shipley, Executive Director of the SRO, and/or to Mark Duffy, Executive Director of the ARO.

The petition file will be updated as new signatures are added. The updated petition will remain accessible for public viewing at <https://www.senatenj.com/uploads/special-session-petition.pdf>.

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