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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

August 7, 2003

Robert E. Nyce,
Executive Director
IRRC
333 Market Street 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Original: 2290

RE: Final Form Regulations No. 12-59
Department of Labor & Industry
UC Appeals

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am writing to briefly comment on the Department of Labor & Industry's Final-form regulation governing appeals to the Unemployment Compensation Board of Review.

On the whole, I believe the proposed regulations are a step in the right direction. Unquestionably, the regulations need to be updated to reflect the vast changes in the way an individual can now communicate and transmit information. By providing additional means for parties to file appeals, the Department is assisting both claimants and employers, and the Department should be applauded for its efforts.

I believe it is essential that we keep in mind that though a majority of individuals have no problem in filing appeals, there are some who do have difficulty navigating the UC system because of barriers such as a limited ability to speak and read the English language. In order to ensure that those individuals do not lose any of their rights under the law, we must do whatever possible to make the process work for them. In that vein, I do concur with several of the comments made by Sharon Dietrich of Community Legal Services in her August 6th letter to the IRRC.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the Department to undertake a long term review of all unemployment compensation regulations in order to bring them into line

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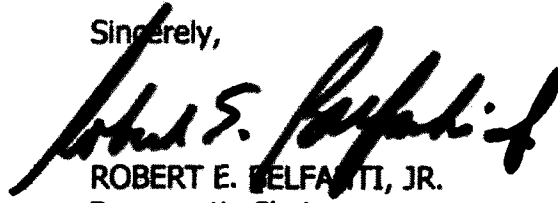
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with how the process now works. Clearly, most of the regulations were promulgated at a time when there were local walk-in offices. Failure to update the regulations to reflect current procedures can only create unnecessary problems for claimants, employers and the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Belfanti, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

ROBERT E. BELFANTI, JR.
Democratic Chair
House Labor Relations Committee

Cc: Kelly K. Smith, Asst. Counsel, DLI
William L. Trusky, Jr., Director of Leg. Affairs, DLI
Representative Bob Allen