



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**STATE SENATOR
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**SENATOR MOORE TO HOST HEARING ON D.U.A. TO ADDRESS SMALL
BUSINESS CONCERNS**

Boston - Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) and State Representative Linda Dorcena Forry (D-Boston, Milton) today announced that the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business, together with the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, will hold a hearing regarding the Division of Unemployment Assistance. Sen. Moore and other legislators have received numerous complaints from small business owners regarding the practices of the agency, specifically its filing and auditing processes. The hearing will take place at the State House on Wednesday, March 10, at 1:00 PM in Room A-2.

“I would encourage any and all businesses who have had difficult or problematic experiences with the Division to come forward and share your experiences with the new Secretary,” said Sen. Moore, “I am hopeful that hearing directly from businesses early in her tenure will encourage Secretary Goldstein of Labor and Workforce Development to work to implement change.”

“On our statewide listening tour Chairman Moore and I have heard from certain business owners who are struggling to comply with our state’s health care regulations,” Rep. Linda Dorcena Forry, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business said. “By and large our health reform efforts in Massachusetts have been hugely successful at increasing insurance coverage, but we know there is still more work to do. This hearing is part of that process.”

In November 2009, Sen. Moore and other legislators sent a letter to then-Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne M. Bump, outlining concerns raised by various local business owners and outlining proposed changes to current policies and regulations. Some of the changes recommended in the letter include changes to DUA’s website, allowing access to online forms, and creating a firewall between the help line and the auditors.

The letter requested that Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development work both internally and with the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy to address the issues that were brought forth. Unfortunately to date the request has gone unanswered. This oversight hearing will give businesses the opportunity they deserve to discuss their concerns and will provide an opportunity for the new Secretary to hear directly from those affected.

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