



*“The Voice of Business on Unemployment & Workers’ Compensation”*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANIZATION CALLS FOR TELEPHONE HEARINGS IN CALIFORNIA TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT APPEAL BACKLOGS**

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 12, 2010 – The national organization representing business in unemployment insurance policy today asked the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board to adopt regulations to authorize expanded use of telephone hearings in unemployment insurance appeals.

“California is among the states with the highest appeals back logs in the country in part because the UI Appeals Board has chosen not to accommodate the use of telephone hearings,” said Douglas J. Holmes, President of UWC, a national organization representing business in Unemployment Insurance policy development.

According to performance measure data for the year ending September 30, 2009 available from the US Department of Labor, California reported that only 3.2% of appeals decisions were rendered within 30 days and only 7.4% within 45 days. The national performance measure is 60% within 30 days and 80% within 45 days.

Many other states have adopted telephone hearings as the normal way of doing business to bring down backlogs and make it easier to participate in hearings without having to travel long distances or miss work. Telephone hearings have been shown to be less costly while reducing the time for decisions and freeing Administrative Law Judges to spend more time on the most difficult cases that may require in-person hearings,” said Holmes.

Comments on proposed regulations are currently being accepted by the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board before finalizing amendments.

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