

The Minnesota State Legislature has introduced bills in both the House and Senate that would grant Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits to AMFA technicians who did not previously receive them. This legislation would allow payment of full benefits to those who were shorted for not calling in every two weeks, did not file a claim because of being "on strike" and granting a 26 week extension to those who have not been able to find work within one year of the labor dispute.

This legislation must pass both in the senate and house and then be signed by Governor Pawlenty to take affect. We have found a lot of support in the legislature for the technicians who lost their jobs and were denied UI benefits. The result of last year's election replaced several legislators who were against granting UI benefits to our members. These newly elected legislators were elected in districts where Local 33 has a majority of our members and they are all supportive of our issues. Both bills have been introduced by legislators who specifically brought our issues forward in their election campaigns. Now they are in positions to help us get the UI benefits that were granted to us by the Circuit Court of Appeals.

It is imperative that every member asks their state representative and senator to support these bills to give some relief to our group.

Please call your state representative and ask them to support **House File 1599**, introduced by Representative Masin. Also, contact your state senator and ask them to support **Senate File 1443**, introduced by Senator Carlson. Please send this request via email also, however, phone calls are the best. You can get your legislators' contact information from Local 33's legislative link.