



## HOUSE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

### Opponent Testimony to H.B. 620

Presented by Andrea Ashley, Associated General Contractors of Ohio

December 1, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to express opposition to House Bill 620 on behalf of a coalition of construction employers that includes the Associated General Contractors of Ohio, Ohio Contractors Association, Mechanical Contractors Association of Ohio, National Electrical Contractors Association of Ohio, Ohio Aggregates & Industrial Minerals Association, Ohio Roofing Contractors Association, Construction Employers Association, and Transportation Advocacy Group of Northwest Ohio.

Our coalition urges the legislature not to pass H.B. 620 during lame duck. The unemployment compensation fund has had a solvency issue for many years, and no new proposal can be properly vetted over a few hearings during lame duck.

Instead, we recommend **the legislature create a committee representative of all the interested parties that could start meeting in January, use an outside actuary not tied to any special interests, and take the time to appropriately develop viable unemployment compensation reforms that ensure the long-term solvency of the system, with the goal of passing a bill before July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Unemployment compensation is a very important issue for construction employers because it has a major impact on our industry's ability to recruit and retain a viable workforce. While we have taken every opportunity to express our concerns, we are not aware of an instance where all interested parties have come together for a meaningful discussion of what should be included in unemployment compensation reform.

Ohio's employers and employees deserve a thoughtful discussion with all parties at the table. Let's make sure we get it right by including representatives of all parties to negotiate a solution to a problem that we all agree needs to be addressed.