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January 9, 2013

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

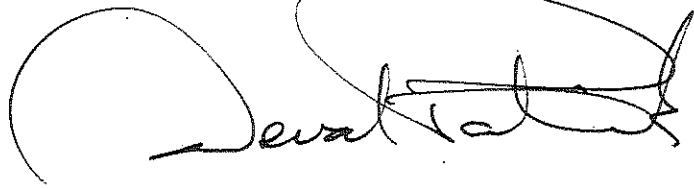
I am filing for your consideration a bill entitled "An Act Relative to Municipal Unemployment Insurance." This bill arises from the work and recommendations of the Municipal Unemployment Insurance Task Force I convened to address the concerns raised during the spring of 2012 by a number of municipalities.

This legislation will do the following:

- create a 65% UI offset to retirees collecting a defined benefit pension, thereby significantly limiting a returning retiree's access to unemployment when laid off and collecting a pension;
- eliminate the disparity between those employed directly by a school department and those providing services to the school but paid directly by the municipality;
- prevent municipalities from being charged for wages earned by election workers; and
- allow DUA to participate in the US Treasury's Offset Program so that the agency can collect UI debts as a result of an overpayment; this would be particularly significant to municipalities because all amounts recouped would go directly into their accounts.

By enacting these provisions and other non-legislative recommendations in the report, together we will provide relief to municipalities while maintaining the integrity of the UI system, respecting the rights of those unemployed workers with valid claims, and ensuring the UI system's continuing compliance with federal law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seva Kataria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.