

Public Testimony submitted by Douglas J. Holmes, President of UWC – Strategic Services on  
Unemployment & Workers' Compensation

Steve,

I plan to attend some of the upcoming meeting and may make a statement at 1:00 on Nov. 17 during the time for public input. I wanted to share with the group the testimony from Michelle Beebe at the hearing before the House Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Utah agency took the time to survey employers in Utah about the SOC codes and their view about additional items to report on UI quarterly reports.

See page 6 in particular of the testimony at <https://waysandmeans.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/20160907HR-Testimony-Beebe.pdf>

**Utah, in collaboration with the Workforce Information Council, conducted a survey about wage record enhancements in summer 2015, using approximately 22,000 unique email addresses representing employers and payroll service providers. More than 1,600 responses were received. Employers were asked to indicate if their payroll systems currently have Standard Occupational Codes (SOC) available for quarterly reporting. Of those that responded, 80 percent indicated that they either do not have SOC codes available or believe this to be inapplicable to their business operations. Of the respondents that prepare their own payroll, the addition of SOC codes was rated as being “very difficult.”**

**Respondents were asked to rate their level of support for wage record enhancement given the benefits and concerns listed, with 59 percent reporting that they either “strongly oppose” or “somewhat oppose” the initiative. Respondents were asked to describe additional concerns and 286 provided comments. The most common response groups include: unnecessary government burden, unclear value to business, uncertain commercial software capabilities and increased reporting complexity.**

I wish to share this feedback with the WIAC and suggest that there should be more discussion with employers as part of the development of recommendations to the next administration with respect to federal reporting requirements in UI wage record reports.

Doug

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