



UI for All: How high  
school students won  
\$70 MILLION  
DOLLARS!

Hosted by: Bridgemakers

# BRIDGEMAKERS INTRODUCTION



# Icebreaker

Name, What brought you here today?  
If you could make a hybrid animal  
what would it be?



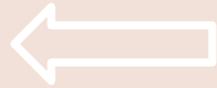
# Highschool Unemployment Insurance Information

History of UI, How the issue started, Why it concerns young people?

# The Unemployment Insurance Fight

In March of last year, hundreds of thousands of people lost their jobs due to the global pandemic. The federal CARES Act quickly provided the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program for people who were unemployed - but Minnesota made high school students ineligible for this. This was due to a law written in 1939 that excluded high school students from receiving unemployment insurance. With so many young people affected - Bridgemakers and other orgs targeted DEED and the MN legislature to change this. In December of 2020, young people won the lawsuit against the State - which allowed high school students to file for PUA!

# HOW TO USE JAMBOARD



Click on this to start up a sticky note. You have an option to change colors and change shape.

Jamboard is free to use for desktop, mobile, tablets. Please download the app before we go into the Jamboard if you are on a phone or tablet.

# Jamboard

Take 2-3 minutes to reflect on this question. Once you finish reflecting, take 2-3 minutes to respond to the question. Once you finish, comment "done" in the chat.

As a student, describe in 2-3 sentences, an experience at school or otherwise where your ideas were ignored or you were tokenized?

# Student Testimonies

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bozSvLRbYXhj666YBVYVw4ibR6GulijP/view>

# Discussion about Unemployment

Have you ever had an experience where you stood up for what you believed in? Can you describe that experience?



# Bills in the House & Senate

# Bill Overview

Our current bills in both the House and Senate are extremely simple.

- In the previous bills from 1939, there was a section that disqualified high school students from receiving any benefits.
- In both bills, this line would be deleted completely, effectively giving high school students, equal treatment as any other tax-paying worker in the state of Minnesota.
- However the Senate has included one key difference in their version of the bill.

# What's happening with the Senate bill?

The Minnesota Senate has adopted an addition to the bill, specifically as a compromise in response to concerns from the business community.

- Senate bill states that the law will go into effect once the UI trust fund (the insurance fund that workers pay into to pay for their UI benefits when they're laid off) has a positive balance of 750 million dollars.
- This trust fund is currently over one billion dollars in debt so we don't know how many years it would take for high schoolers to start receiving benefits.
- Young people can't wait several years to be treated fairly, It's time to stand up for students and demand our basic workers rights.



# Representative Contacting Workshop

# How to contact your rep - next steps

Visit this Website:

Enter Your Zip code:

See your results!

<https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

E.g: 55XXX

	<b>Kaohly Her (DFL)</b> MN House - 64A	<a href="#">Contact</a>  <a href="#">District</a> 
	<b>Erin Murphy (DFL)</b> MN Senate - 64	<a href="#">Contact</a>  <a href="#">District</a> 
	<b>Betty McCollum (DFL)</b> U.S. House - 4	<a href="#">Contact</a>  <a href="#">District</a> 
	<b>Amy Klobuchar (DFL)</b> U.S. Senate	<a href="#">Contact</a>  <a href="#">District</a> 
	<b>Tina Smith (DFL)</b> U.S. Senate	<a href="#">Contact</a>  <a href="#">District</a> 

# Personalize Your Email

Personalized messages are especially effective -- please consider explaining why this issue is important to you!

Things you can include!

- Your Age, School (current or graduate)
- If you've worked throughout high school, why was earning that income important to you?

# ACTION: Representative Contacting Workshop

[bit.ly/uiletter](https://bit.ly/uiletter)

## Action Steps!

Participate in our  
education  
competition for a  
chance to win  
\$250

All you have to do is  
submit at

Follow us on all  
social media  
platforms.

@mnyoungchampions

@bridgmakers\_mn

Stay tuned on our  
social media for  
Week of  
Conversations we  
are organizing with  
100 days of  
Conversations.

# Thank you for joining us!

Do you have any questions?

MNyoungchampions@gmail.com



@mnyoungchampions, @bridgemakers\_mn