

May 6, 2025

U.S. Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration, Office of Unemployment Insurance  
Room S-4519  
200 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Submitted via email: [OUI-PRA@dol.gov](mailto:OUI-PRA@dol.gov);

**Subject: Benefit Rights and Experience Report**

**OMB control number: 1205-0177**

The National Employment Law Project (NELP) submits this comment in support of the continued collection of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) form 218.

NELP is a nonprofit research, policy, and capacity building organization that for more than 50 years has sought to strengthen protections and build power for workers in the U.S., including workers who are unemployed. For decades, NELP has researched and advocated for policies that create good jobs, expand access to work, and strengthen protections and support for underpaid and jobless workers.

ETA form 218 collects critical information from state UI agencies on both monetary determinations of eligibility and duration of benefits. These data are critical for assessing eligibility requirements and the sufficiency of benefit protections. Continued collection of ETA form 218 is particularly important given there are no federal standards for monetary eligibility or benefit duration.

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ETA form 218 data can be used for several important purposes including:

- Predicting future costs to the UI trust fund, as well as the adequacy of the state UI tax rate.
- Reviewing monetary eligibility requirements.
  - For example, if a majority of applicants are denied due to inadequate wage credits, then this can indicate that the monetary threshold for UI eligibility may be too high. It also could indicate that workers without wage credits, such as those classified as independent contractors, may be applying for UI. States could respond by providing clearer information about eligibility criteria, or by establishing UI for independent contractors.
- Reviewing the potential and actual duration of benefits and benefit exhaustions.
  - This cannot only be used to predict future costs to the UI trust fund, but to assess sufficiency of benefit duration to meet the needs of unemployed workers nationwide or in each state.

Publication of these data also enables comparisons between states, to help policymakers evaluate their state's UI program.

Without continued collection of ETA 218 data, DOL-ETA, states, lawmakers, and advocates would lose critical information for ensuring sufficient access to and protection of UI. Thus, NELP strongly supports DOL-ETA's continued collection of this information.

Sincerely,



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