The following comments are attributed to Illinois Chamber of Commerce CEO Jimmy Clayton regarding House Bill 2565 which would offer unemployment benefits to striking employees.

“Illinois needs public policy which will spur growth and help advance our state as a national economic powerhouse. Legislation like House Bill 2565, while well-intended for bargaining agreements, undermines the long-established preferred agreed bill process,” Clayton said. “We would encourage the legislative negotiators to reengage on the agreed bill process and bring forth legislation which ensures Illinois can retain our smallest to our largest businesses. The unemployment trust fund is already at roughly 5.6 percent of the level that it was at back in June. The solvency of the trust fund must be on policymakers’ minds. We stand ready to negotiate a better product that will protect employers unemployment insurance rates from skyrocketing.”