

P.O. BOX 8952 , MADISON, WI 53708

April 21st, 2020

Senator Dan Feyen Room 306 South State Capitol PO Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707

Secretary Caleb Frostman 201 East Washington Avenue PO Box 7946 Madison, WI 53707

Re: Unemployment Insurance

Dear Secretary Frostman,

As the state of Wisconsin proceeds through the unprecedented territory of navigating a global pandemic, it is more important than ever that we are able to give citizens faith in our administrative and governance capabilities. One of the main interactions Wisconsinites are currently having with their government is through the unemployment insurance system. We have seen over 313,000 Wisconsinites apply for unemployment over the last month.

Unfortunately, our offices are encountering many constituents who have waited over three weeks, received no unemployment insurance payments, and are still unable to get in touch with the Department of Workforce Development to remedy the situation. Some news outlets are even <u>reporting</u> on the dire situation. People are becoming scared, feeling helpless, and searching for answers. They are willing to do their part; it is crucial the Department is able to step up to the challenge and fulfill their role. Considering the extension of the Safer at Home Order and uncertainty as to when our economy will be able to restart, our state government must show we are able to rise to the challenge of assisting people as they endure the devastating effects of this economic closure.

We are requesting a conference call with Secretary Frostman to discuss the current backlog in unemployment insurance cases, what's being done to ameliorate the situation, and the prognosis looking forward. We look forward to your response with available dates and times to discuss this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

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Senator Dan Feyen 18th Senate District