

Hi Eric,

Thanks for letting me know you are moving forward with a Politifact review. Since you are, we'd like to provide a more detailed response.

As I noted in my email on Friday, Rep. Hintz's floor speech, and comment, highlighted how legislative Republicans refused to take any legislative action to address the UI system issues for nine months, but spent those nine months blaming Gov. Evers for not doing enough. In effect, Legislative Republicans decided it was more important to try and score political points against Governor Evers than it was to help address some of the UI backlog. A review of Rep. Hintz's complete floor speech makes his point - and the context for his comment - crystal clear.

In his full speech, Rep. Hintz criticized the lack of urgency in the Assembly's response to the UI crisis during the COVID pandemic, summarized Republican actions between 2010 and 2018 that now make it more difficult and take longer to process and receive UI benefits, criticized the lack of urgency in the Assembly's response during the COVID pandemic, decried the politicization of the pandemic and the UI delays, and charged that Republicans have been deliberate in not taking legislative action to address the UI problems in order to score political points against Gov. Evers.

- At 0:24, he asked why the Assembly hasn't acted sooner to respond to the urgent needs and challenges related to COVID.
- At 1:47, he asked why Republicans haven't scheduled the Assembly to meet, when the situation was clearly urgent.
- At 3:00, he reminded the Assembly of multiple state UI law changes that Republicans supported under Governor Walker, which add to the delays being experienced by Wisconsinites now. These changes included adding the one-week waiting period (3:26), adding a work search requirement (3:51), expanding the work search requirement (4:13), increasing the number of situations in which claimants can be denied benefits (4:45).
- At 4:57, he spoke about the changes passed by Republicans during the 2018 lame duck session, which prevented Gov. Evers from being able to waive certain requirements for claimants to receive UI.
- At 6:00, he mentioned the package of legislation introduced by Assembly Democrats last summer to remove barriers and delays for Wisconsinites applying for UI, which legislative Republicans refused to bring up.
- At 8:23, he told his Republican colleagues directly that playing politics with something like unemployment insurance was cynical and contrary to helping to fix the situation.

I have attached a complete transcription of Rep. Hintz's floor speech for your reference, which includes time stamps throughout for ease of review.

To be clear: Rep. Hintz absolutely believes, and has consistently highlighted, that people not getting their unemployment benefits when they need them was and still is a crisis in Wisconsin. People not getting their benefits more quickly over the last nine months because legislative Republicans chose to try to make Gov. Evers look bad rather than taking legislative action to address the UI delays, on the other hand, is an artificially-created, or fake, crisis. Legislative Republicans blaming the governor month after month for a situation that the state legislature itself could help fix is disingenuous and callous, particularly during a pandemic.

Please let me know if you have follow-up questions about any of the above. Also, we respectfully request that you include a link to [this email response](#) as well as to the [transcript and video](#) of Rep. Hintz's full floor speech when you publish your analysis. To facilitate this request, please feel free to use the links above, where we have posted the items on Rep. Hintz's website.

Best,
Joanna

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