



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Murphy Urges Evers to Provide Promised Unemployment Services

GREEN BAY, WI — State Representative Dave Murphy (R-Greenville) called on Governor Tony Evers to use a small portion of the discretionary federal funds from the CARES Act to provide financial relief to unemployed Wisconsinites who have been waiting on Gov. Evers' administration to provide unemployment benefits.

Republicans in the Legislature have for months called on Gov. Evers and the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to open the call center seven days a week with extended hours, pre-pay UI claims while a full review is conducted, and call applicants and businesses to verify applications instead of mailing verification letters.

"Every day, I hear from people who can't get through to the DWD despite calling hundreds of times," said Murphy. "They want to apply correctly, yet when the system kicks them off or requests a phone call they cannot get through. My office has been successful in providing assistance with severely delayed unemployment claims, but it should never have reached this point of malfunction."

Murphy cited numerous examples of people struggling to get in touch with the DWD about their situation:

"Lynda from Appleton was forced to close her small business and sought unemployment assistance for herself and her employees in the midst of dealing with personal health issues.

"Greg from Appleton applied for UI in the beginning of April, and despite my office contacting DWD on his behalf three times, Greg has not been called by anyone at unemployment about his case. That makes three months of no explanations and no money to pay his bills.

"Chris from Greenville tried to reach someone at DWD for six weeks before she called me. Fortunately, we were able to get her an answer after almost a month. This was the rare case resolved fairly quickly."

"I hear firsthand from these folks who are suffering and they can't even leave a message with DWD or the governor's office. It's no wonder that the lack of action from the governor reflects his disconnect with the people of our state."

Today, Rep. Murphy joined his colleagues urging Governor Tony Evers to use unspent federal funds from the CARES Act to provide temporary financial assistance to individuals who are still waiting for UI benefit claims to be reviewed and approved. This program would provide funds for their unemployment claim to be adjudicated. The temporary payments would offer financial relief while people wait for Gov. Evers' administration to process UI claims.

"After months of pleading with the governor to make this right, we have created a solid proposal to help folks in need right now," said Murphy. "These inexcusable delays are not happening in other states, and the governor needs to take real action for Wisconsinites."

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