



SCOTT ALLEN

REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Caleb Frostman
Department of Workforce Development
201 East Washington Ave
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707

Secretary Frostman,

Thank you for your leadership during this difficult time in our state's history. With the added regulations regarding newly available federal assistance, along with potentially the highest unemployment numbers ever seen, coordinating this effort cannot be easy.

Yesterday, I co-signed a letter with 35 of my Assembly colleagues encouraging the Department of Workforce Development to explore all options in speeding up claims processing. I write separately to inquire about the utilization of staffing flexibility provided by the 2019 Act 185. Has staff been added and trained for the purpose of assisting claimants?

My office, like many other Representatives and Senators, have been receiving many requests for assistance during this period of time. We have been working to answer every inquiry, and direct them to the Department as specified by communications from the Legislative Liaison.

Unfortunately, this process is leaving my staff and many constituents in the 97th Assembly District in the dark. Reports of individuals still not having received any unemployment assistance even after seven weeks is not uncommon. Constituents who utilize our office to communicate with DWD still wait more than a week to receive a response from the Department. Several have had their benefits completely revoked or made to re-apply. Emails with read receipts to the constituent inquiries inbox are indicated as having been delivered, but to date, there is no indication these have actually been read. Calls and emails, even of a generic nature to the legislative liaison have not been returned.

If additional staff have not been reassigned to DWD to assist in handling claims, please make it your number one priority to request such action from the Administration. The people of Wisconsin need help now.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to these matters, and thank you for your continued willingness to serve the people of Wisconsin.

Sincerely yours,



SCOTT ALLEN

REPRESENTATIVE • 97TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Scott Allen
97th Assembly District
Waukesha, Genesee, Mukwonago

CC: Governor Tony Evers, DOA Secretary Joel Brennan