

Secretary Frostman,

We just received the following email from a constituent:

"I am afraid of what is going to happen to my family. My daughter is only 3 and both her mother and I have been out of work since the beginning of all of this. **I am currently only eating every other day so I can provide more for my children.**"

Let that fully sink in – this man is only eating every other day so he can feed his child – **in the United States of America in 2020!** Unacceptable is an understatement. And this is not an isolated incident. Our office has spoken to single mothers terrified of eviction, people who have had their cars repossessed, and a litany of other constituents who your Department has failed to serve for approaching three months. People have created [petitions](#), [support groups](#), and [pages](#) doling out mental health tips all because of the egregious wait times they are facing.

We, as legislators, are at a loss. We've sent letters, arranged calls, done press, tried to brainstorm solutions, etc. to no avail. It is incredibly frustrating to speak to these people day in and day out and be unable to do more to help. And yet, the people who can help – YOU – don't seem concerned with doing so urgently and expediently. So, maybe a firsthand look at some of these heartbreaking communications will be helpful to motivate the Department to find a solution to the problem NOW and stop the suffering of real people:

- "I have a wonderful wife and two loving kids that I need to provide for. Not working and being able to pay the bills has put an extreme strain on me."
- "Now as a single parent I sit here 5 weeks later and still no unemployment. How are people supposed to live or support a family?"
- "I'm in jeopardy of losing my vehicle because I'm behind in my loan payment and they won't defer my payment unless my account is current... and I can't bring it current without income.... I'm struggling to get necessities for me and my children with no income.... this is getting really stressful trying to raise 3 children with barely a penny to my name since I haven't worked since their daycare closed"
- "I am a single mother of 2 boys and am getting financial aid, but that has come and gone. The stimulus payment I got was to pay off my rent, car payment, phone and groceries."
- "Are they hoarding money hoping we will all just give up? This is simply awful!"
- "I don't know what else to do, we are about to lose everything! Please help!"
- "I literally don't have a phone because I can't pay the bill."
- "I have 2 young kids at home I'm trying to take care of. I have nothing left. Just trying to get something in my account to finally have relief."
- "Just know I am behind on rent and bills. So trying to play catch up is hard."
- "Have not been able to get in touch with anyone and I'm running out of options."

If I can be of assistance, please let me know. I do not want my constituents to have to continue to suffer.

Best,

-Dan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Feyen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being more prominent than the last name "Feyen".

Senator Dan Feyen

18<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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