

From: Becky [REDACTED]
Subject: Questions for Oregon State Employment Department - see attached
Date: May 29, 2020 at 5:21 PM



To: Rep.PaulHolvey@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.GregBarreto@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JanelleBynum@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JeffBarker@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.VikkiBreeselverson@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.BrianClem@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.MargaretDoherty@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.PaulEvans@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JulieFahey@oregonlegislature.gov

Hello Elected Officials,

I belong with a facebook group page. We collectively have a number of questions. I hope you will consider these questions for tomorrow's meeting.

Sincerely,

Becky [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Local Business Owner in Beaverton



Questions for
legislature.pdf

QUESTIONS FOR SECOND QUESTIONING OF EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT REGARDING PUA on MAY 30th

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Who is really handling PUA claims?

I'm told from an inside source that the claims are being handled by a handful of people from the tax department. Is that true? If so, why is there not a special team.

Do you even know how many people are trying to submit a PUA claim? Of that, how many have been approved? Why is it taking so long to just get people approved? Knowing you will be okay can go a long way to reducing emotional stress.

- Why has it taken over 3 months to just get a PUA claim approved?
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Are there going to be people to answer phones? When?

From: Carolyn [REDACTED]
Subject: PUA questions for tomorrow's questioning
Date: May 29, 2020 at 3:49 PM



To: Rep.PaulHolvey@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.gregbarreto@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JanelleBynum@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JeffBarker@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.vikkibreeseiverson@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.BrianClem@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.MargaretDoherty@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.paulevans@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JulieFahey@oregonlegislature.gov

My apologies on this late email. We were guided to write to our representatives. I just found out about 40 minutes ago that only you all would be asking questions. Our group of nearly 1800 self-employed, solo-contractors implore you to get answers. Life is getting scarily desperate for many, and we've found out, from people on the inside of the department that no one is being told the truth.

If we don't get people helped out, I fear for the emotional and physical well-being of many. I ask to keep my name out of this as I am simply to information gatherer and sharer for this larger organization.

Here is the document created today by this group. Please excuse typos and grammatical errors. 😊

Please help!

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From: Desiree [REDACTED]
Subject: One Oregonian To Another
Date: May 29, 2020 at 11:39 AM
To: Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov



Dear Member of the House Committee for Business and Labor,

My name is Desiree Barksdale and I am a fellow Oregonian. It has come to my attention that you have a unique opportunity this week to ask questions to the Employment Department Director, Kay Erickson. As someone who has had zero response (besides weekly letters stating my claim won't be paid) from the employment department in almost 10 weeks, this sounded almost too good to be true!

You see, over 38,000 Oregonians like me have yet to receive ANY response from the employment department since filing their initial claims almost 10 weeks ago. Many of us receive a letter each week stating that our benefits are not being paid this week, with no further explanation. Some don't even receive a letter.

If you try to call the employment department's phone number, you will receive a busy signal. If you happen to make it through, you will be put on hold for many hours, often until the office closes - at which point your phone call will be disconnected. If you respond to the letters (if you receive them) or attempt to email, these will go without response. I am one of 38,000 Oregonians who are being ignored every day for almost 10 weeks.

Over 38,000 people. For scale, that's about two entirely full Moda Center arenas - full of previously-working Americans who are being left to explain to their families that they can't put food on the table or pay rent for the 10th week in a row and they don't even know why.

The Employment Department of Oregon received \$85 million dollars over ten years ago to improve the system that is failing our state. Gail Krumenauer, the communications director for the Oregon Employment Department, stated that they began to explore options for updating this system (which dates back to the 1990's) back in 2017 and yet no changes were ever made.

Why did it take them so long to get the ball rolling, and why have we seen no actualized improvements since then? Where is our unemployment money? Where did the \$85 million given to their department in 2009 go? Why was this system never improved? Why are 38,000 Oregonians still without any response after 3 months?

These are just some questions that over 38,000 recently unemployed Oregonians are desperately wishing they could ask Employment Director Kay Erickson.

I hope you'll understand how disappointed I was to learn that only 3 of your Committee's members submitted questions to be asked about this situation. Only 3 members wanted to know why their fellow Oregonians were being made to suffer without pay in silence during a global pandemic.

If you were one of the Committee members who did not submit a question, I genuinely hope that you will reconsider. Kay Erickson and the Employment Department of Oregon need to be held accountable. PowerPoint presentations won't cut it anymore. If you are one of the Committee members who did submit questions, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

If you have any questions for me, one of those 38,000 Oregonians, I urge you to reach back out to me. As just a regular citizen, there isn't much I can do. But you are in a unique position - please utilize your privilege to speak up for us.

Thank you for reading,
Desiree [REDACTED]
Single-mother, formerly employed in production
[REDACTED]

<https://katu.com/news/following-the-money/the-feds-gave-oregon-money-to-update-employment-dept-copmuters-where-did-it-go?fbclid=IwAR3zgW-J3G0RIgZesqzcU9ykDGVw-7r5sKyEnPPIBSIyTnVrwaEnn1PzHsE>

<https://www.kgw.com/mobile/article/news/health/coronavirus/oregon-employment-department-director-testifies-on-pandemic-response-in-front-of-legislative-committee/283-963bdc4-61c1-4c9f-ac97-cefb50842035?fbclid=IwAR1jK76bwhKnWYIPHG91Rmg7ly7RNGwyMa05Qu5vzBmisbnwjkIY7uVoAH8>

From: Diana [REDACTED]

Subject: Questions for Unemployment dept.

Date: May 29, 2020 at 4:09 PM

To: Rep.PaulHolvey@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.gregbarreto@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JanelleBynum@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JeffBarker@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.vikkibreeseiverson@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.BrianClem@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.MargaretDoherty@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.paulevans@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JulieFahey@oregonlegislature.gov



Dear Business & Labor Committee,

I have a question for you regarding unemployment. Although my PUA claim is still in limbo (for weeks), I believe the below question could be informative.

If the more generic questions were asked, such as, the form change. Why not add it to the FAQ's and/or put it in the media section of the Unemployment Facebook/Twitter sites.

Thank you,

Diana [REDACTED]
Central Oregon [REDACTED]
(541) [REDACTED]

From: Jennifer [REDACTED]
Subject: We need answers!
Date: May 29, 2020 at 9:25 PM
To: Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov



https://lookaside.fbsbx.com/file/Questions%20for%20legislature.pdf?token=AWxf-Nscil6VkYExFcL1e9g12goj-44SHm7jb5l-NrKQ70FAo6DsPvnF1KvkU42qUTlhfn9vAp-Cn7jzBjBfwyhhcdfGFnwAe7MxLZYvMYUqIfKH6SlvgAaCztn6l60fkiTP-7DfhZs08ZZXT9V0Aqr96ndbWTRbFkAytH6nZsSYxQ1UZ-CNB250Sd4EdnNtNN9Rt_UHFKHeaTf9JhpjXX1k

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Nina [REDACTED]

Subject: PUA OED struggles

Date: May 29, 2020 at 4:25 PM

To: Rep.PaulHolvey@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.gregbarreto@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JanelleBynum@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JeffBarker@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.vikkibreeseiverson@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.BrianClem@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.MargaretDoherty@oregonlegislature.gov, rep.paulevans@oregonlegislature.gov, Rep.JulieFahey@oregonlegislature.gov

NS

Hi,

My name is Nina Sage, I have been a full time dog sport and dog show photographer since 2008, and part time before then. I live in Milwaukie, Or. My last day of work was Sunday March 15th, 2020

On March 27th, I applied for unemployment when the state opened it up to the self employed, and have done the weekly updates every Sunday morning.

On April 23rd, I was invited to the Pilot PUA program and applied within an hour of receiving the invite, and have done the weekly updates every Sunday morning.

On (or around) April 28th, the PUA program opened up to all sole proprietors, small business etc

Today is Friday May 29th, over 10 weeks since I last worked, and I have received zero assistance from the OED. I have received Food Stamps, that is the only help the state that I have lived in since 1980 has provided me, even though the state asked me to stop working, told me to stay home, promised me that help would come ... well, I'm still waiting! along with thousands of others.

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Thank you
Nina



From: Paige [REDACTED]
Subject: We have questions for your 5/30 meeting
Date: May 29, 2020 at 5:08 PM
To: Rep.DanielBonham@oregonlegislature.gov



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- Why aren’t PUA weekly certs getting any confirmation that uploads are actually received. Why are we getting a “Your information has successfully uploaded”, when it hasn’t? How can we be assured that data is uploading? What are you doing to remedy this?
- Again, and again people ask, “Why is everything so secretive”. Honesty and openness would go a long way to easing people’s minds.

How are ‘complicated’ claims handled & how are they holding up the rest of the claims.

- Yesterday they stated that any PUA claim from an Uber or Lyft driver goes straight to the tax department. My question is how long does it take to clear the tax department? Why does it need to go to the tax department? And will they not be able to approve my

claim until Uber agrees that drivers are "employees" and agrees to pay the UI insurance for us?

- Will those of us who are hybrid workers (some work done as w2, some as 1099) and particularly those of us who are primarily self-employed but work occasionally w2 (such as holiday jobs) be able to receive the \$205 pua minimum instead of the \$151 (and that only for a short while)?

Weekly PUA payments

- When will there be a URL to show PUA weeks claimed + claim status.

- Why is the weekly reporting based on gross earnings, but the increase eligibility is based

on NET earnings? Why is it not consistent? not net? The net reflects true earnings.

- If we earn over the paltry \$205, why do I have to start a new claim? Why can't we restart our claim online? Then we hear, we should just make weekly claims. Which is it? Again, communication and consistency.
- WHY have some PUA claims been neglected completely and have stopped being paid two weeks ago, cold turkey? No notice, nothing. Just completely stopped paying us and processing our weekly forms.
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- What does claim restart mean?

Are there going to be people to answer phones? When?

Paige [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]