

As of March, I held a job as a physical therapist assistant at a busy clinic. I had earned my way to a corner office, a steady caseload, a nice work community, and a workplace I would walk to. My last day of work was 3/12/20. On 3/13/20, a day I was not usually scheduled I was informed schools would close down. I have a 11, 9, and 1 year old.

My official lay off day was 3/20 and I applied for benefits that day. At that point it was a temporary layoff. I received a confirmation number as well as notification was that my claim was valid as of the week of 3/16. I marked I was unavailable and not looking for work because that's the truth. I had to be home with three kids. In the following week they announced that people affected by corona should mark they are available and looking for work. I emailed them immediately. Every weekly certification since has stated I am available in the states standards. 6 weeks later I get a letter saying my claim is non valid due to several issues but the letter was vague and confusion. I immediately asked for redetermination. I have still not heard back from that request. Part of the reason I did not qualify is because I didn't meet all of the quarters. The quarter I didn't work, I was having a child.

During the first week of April I received an error code telling me to RESTART my claim. Wow. Okay. So I do that and then notice that not the online claim says all my claims started 4/13... frustrating. Try to resolve. Never hear back. Tried calling over a hundred times some days, only ever got a busy signal. Tried calling the worksorce centers in other counties because lane county was not answering or returning calls. Once I got someone on the phone, they couldn't help me. I will say right now every one of the worksorce employees was kind and compassionate and tried to help and then quickly hit a road block. End of April... I get informed that now I should apply for a PUA system... when I say informed I mean I had to go to their site to try to figure this out. I apply the first day. Get told 1-4 weeks... 3 weeks pass I get an email saying 2 more weeks.... I am one week into that right now.

Meanwhile getting permanently laid off from my job because they forecast they won't need me back for a year!!! The amount of mental stress this has caused me and my family in incalculable. The first thing I think of when I wake up. The last thing before I fall asleep. I am in a constant state of panic and stress. I have 3 children, plus 2 bonus children. At times there are 7 of us. Heartbroken that I finally get extra time with them and I couldn't even make the best of it. Sure the electric company won't shut us off today, but they are still sending the collection letters. The amounts are stacking and moratoriums are expiring. We still need things that food stamps won't buy! The landlords are a small family who survive off our rent.... do we just say who cares to them! It's a ripple effect. It's unacceptable. The lack of solid communication, compassion, and leadership is disgusting. We are people. Please do whatever you need to fix this problem as soon as possible.

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