

Hello,

I am a 26 year old female living in Portland, Oregon. I am currently in my 18th week of waiting for unemployment. I have spent over 50 hours on hold since the beginning of the pandemic, reaching only two workers who provided zero insight on my case and advised me to continue to wait. I have written to my state officials week after week to no avail. I have burned through all my savings. I still do not know what is holding up my Employment case.

I worked for 3 years in Portland social services helping prevent and stop evictions. If I do not receive my benefits by the 30th of September I will be evicted. I have had my car repossessed severely hindering my ability to find work. Where I live, I cannot safely walk many places at night. I smell tear gas weekly, I sleep on the floor during particularly scary nights- my apartment filled with the sound of bangs, gun shots and screaming. I feel unsafe most days. Without my car, I have no safe respite from the nightly clashes.

The trauma of this all will effect me financially, psychologically and emotionally for the rest of my life. I have paid taxes to the Employment department since I began working at 16. No paycheck for over four months. Not even a phone call. This is a crisis.

Please Help Oregonians.

Note: Please use discretion with your personal information in written testimony (i.e., do not add personal information you do not want the public to see). All meeting materials, including your name and any personal information contained in the submitted documents, are posted to the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) and are accessible to all major search engines, including Google, Bing, and Yahoo.

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