

I applied for unemployment on April 10th. No one has ever called to give me updates or explain the delay. I get all of my information through the news media. I have successfully gotten through on the phone 3 times in the past 5 months, but all they could tell me is that my claim has been in adjudication since May 5th and that it can take up to 14 weeks to be resolved.... it has been more than 14 weeks, and still no updates.

I understand that the department was overwhelmed with claims and so I waited patiently. I was fortunate and had a small pension paid out in June so I had income to get through these past months. But, now I've run through it and still no light at the end of this tunnel.

Some of the more frustrating aspects of this struggle is the misinformation. I was told to apply for PUA so I could get paid while I wait. I received a letter informing me that I don't qualify for PUA because I'm eligible for regular UI. Really? I called, and after more than 300 attempts, and being on hold for almost two hours, I was informed that my PUA application is under review and could take a number of weeks to be resolved. So much for getting paid while I wait.

My claim should be easy to resolve. I was terminated because my doctor wouldn't release me to work in the office full time due to aftereffects of chemo the previous year and my FMLA had been exhausted. I was terminated for reasons that I could not change. I can't work in public because of a compromised immune system that is vulnerable to COVID-19. All of this is hard to live with. Having no income has made it almost unbearable.

I live with my 80 year-old mom on her fixed income, and I feel blessed to have family and friends who support me. I have no idea how those without family are getting through this crisis. 5 months waiting for claims to be resolved is simply unacceptable. There must be a better solution to this problem.

Thank you for listening. I pray that this will be more than a blame game, which is what politics have become, and will actually result in solutions that will help devastated Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Cheryle Tate
Lebanon, OR

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)