

Hello,

I contacted Senator Courtney's office with my complaints about having applied for, but never received any PUA assistance from OED during the past five months. A staff member suggested I submit my "testimony" at this email address, so that is the purpose of this email.

Here's some info concerning my problems with receiving PUA assistance from OED:

I heard a news report on KLCC in Eugene this morning that Senator Courtney is conducting a Hearing with OED about their failure to provide needed PUA aid to Oregon citizens. I AM ONE SUCH CITIZEN! I am and have been a self-employed solo attorney in Lane County since 1992. Due to Governor Brown's stay at home orders, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the severe economic downturn, my solo law practice has suffered severely and I am unable to pay my expenses to keep my law practice going.

I initially filed for UI (out of desperation before the PUA was up and running) but I am self-employed, not an employee, and then reapplied for PUA with the OED starting in April-May 2020. I've filed three different Applications and have filed weekly PUA certification forms covering April 2020 thru this week in August, and have written 4 letters to OED pleading with them to process my applications and weekly PUA requests AND I HAVE STILL NOT GOTTEN ONE CENT IN PUA AID!

I am attaching pdfs of the letters I've written to OED for your consideration and I hope this helps you in your efforts to get the OED to do whatever it takes to fully implement the PUA plan in Oregon and GET MONEY TO ITS UNEMPLOYED SELF-EMPLOYED CITIZENS WHO NEED THIS ASSISTANCE DESPERATELY!!!

If you need additional info from me, please contact me by email.

Please redact my address and contact info below if you intend to use this email as part of the Hearing. I redacted personal info on the attached letters.

Alan R. Buchalter
Attorney at Law

Alan R. Buchalter
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Customer ID # XXXXXXXXXX
XXX-XXX-XXXX

Date: August 4, 2020

Re: My PUA Submittals - Still Have Not Been Processed!!!

To Oregon Unemployment PUA Director:

I have been uploading-submitting Weekly PUA Reports since April 2020 as a Self-Employed Oregon citizen, and I've received confirmations that you received my PUA Application and Weekly Reports/Claims...BUT I STILL HAVE NOT GOTTEN A SINGLE PUA PAYMENT!

As far as I am concerned, YOU ARE NOT SERVING THE UNEMPLOYED CITIZENS OF OREGON! As of the last Certification I submitted one week ago, the PUA extra \$600 payments have expired...AND I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY PAYMENTS WHATSOEVER!!!

I tried filing my Weekly Certification last week on your new on-line system...BUT I GOT NO CONFIRMATION OF YOU HAVING RECEIVED IT. So I am going back to the upload system where I do get a confirmation, and the Weekly Certification for the past week is attached to this letter and will be uploaded.

OVER FOUR MONTHS HAVE PASSED AND YOU CAN'T PROCESS MY PUA APPLICATION AND FOUR MONTHS PLUS WORTH OF PUA WEEKLY CERTIFICATIONS???? I am profoundly disappointed and disheartened that the Oregon Unemployment Department still has not processed my PUA Application and has NOT SENT ME ANY PUA PAYMENTS!!!

NOTE: When Governor Brown's stay-at-home order was first issued, and I was unable to earn income from my self-employment business, I tried to submit an application for Pandemic Assistance using the UI Application because I did not know how else to apply for assistance and the PUA system had not yet been implemented. I got a denial of my UI Application because I am NOT an employee. However, as soon as it became available, I did file my separate PUA Application, and you acknowledged receiving it...BUT I HAVE NOT GOTTEN ANY CONFIRMATION THAT YOU HAVE PROCESSED MY PUA APPLICATION OR ANY OF MY WEEKLY CERTIFICATIONS!!!

PLEASE ADDRESS THIS SITUATION IMMEDIATELY. Thank you. I have needed the PUA assistance over the past five months and have gotten nothing!

Alan R. Buchalter
SS# XXX-XX-XXXX

Alan R. Buchalter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Customer ID # [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: August 12, 2020

Re: RESPONSE to Your Email Dated 8/11/2020 Requesting Info Re: PUA Application

To Oregon Unemployment PUA Director:

I received the attached email from OED requesting some missing info from my PUA Application. I HAVE TRIED CALLING THOSE PHONE NUMBERS DOZENS OF TIMES OVER THE PAST MONTHS AND HAVE NEVER GOT A CONNECTION, ONLY A FAST BUSY SIGNAL...ON BOTH NUMBERS.

Since I can't get through on the phone to provide you with the missing info, I am including that info in this letter.

Your email asked when I was first impacted by COVID-19 and no longer able to work. THE ANSWER IS when Governor Brown issued the "Stay at Home" Order on March 23rd, 2020. Since that time my office where I would normally meet with clients was closed and I was under the stay at home order, so I could not physically meet with clients as of March 23rd, 2020. Thus that is the date I was first unable to do my normal work, which is as a self-employed attorney.

Attached to this letter is a print out of the email you sent me on 8/11/2020 and my PUA Weekly Certification form for the week of August 9th-15th, 2020.

I hope this letter will provide you with the info you requested, and that my PUA Application which was filed several months ago will finally be reviewed and approved and that past due PUA payments will be sent to me ASAP. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter! I need the assistance.

Alan R. Buchalter
SS# [REDACTED]

no_email.oed_no_email@state.or.us

8/12/2020 6:30 PM

URGENT: Problem with Your PUA Application

To [REDACTED]

You have filed for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). You did not provide the date you were first impacted by COVID and no longer able to work. We need this information to make a determination on your eligibility.

- Please contact the PUA contact center at 503-370-5400 or toll free 833-410-1004 OR
- File a new application on the PUA CARES Act page and upload it with the secure upload.

During this review, please continue to submit your weekly PUA claims.

For more information about the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, please visit our PUA CARES Act page.

Thank you,

Oregon Employment Department

Replies to this message are routed to an unmonitored mailbox. If you have questions please go to www.oregon.gov/employ.

OED_PUA_INFO * OED <oed_pua_info.oed_pua_info@oregon.gov>

8/11/2020 1:11 PM

PUA App Missing Information

To [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Hi Alan,

We have received a Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Intake Application. On the submitted application, you have answered "YES" to one or more of the questions in Section C- Eligibility Questions but did not provide a date when you were first impacted by COVID-19 and no longer able to work . We need this information to determine your eligibility. Please call us as soon as possible at (503)370- 5400 or (833)410- 1004 to provide us with the missing information, or you can file a new application with the missing COVID eligibility date and submit it on our Online Claim System <https://unemployment.oregon.gov/>.

Thank You

Oregon Employment Department

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

(503)370- 5400 or (833)410- 1004

Alan R. Buchalter
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXX
Customer ID #XXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXX-XXX-XXXX

Date: August 13, 2020

To Oregon Unemployment PUA Director:

Re: RESPONSE to Your Emails Dated 8/11/2020 and 8/12/2020 Requesting Info Re:
PUA Application

I received a second email from OED marked URGENT requesting some missing info from my PUA Application. I HAVE TRIED CALLING THOSE PHONE NUMBERS MANY TIMES OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS TRYING TO RESPOND BUT HAVE NEVER GOT A CONNECTION, ONLY A FAST BUSY SIGNAL...ON BOTH NUMBERS.

#1) Since I can't get through on the phone to provide you with the missing info, I am including that info in this letter.

Your email asked when I was first impacted by COVID-19 and no longer able to work. THE ANSWER IS when Governor Brown issued the "Stay at Home" Order on March 23rd, 2020. Since that time my office where I would normally meet with clients was closed and I was under the stay at home order, so I could not physically meet with clients as of March 23rd, 2020. Thus that is the date I was first unable to do my normal work, which is as a self-employed attorney.

#2) Attached to this letter is a print out of the email you sent me on 8/12/2020 and a print out of my TENTATIVE Schedule C from our 2019 Federal Tax Return which has not yet been filed because we FILED FOR AN EXTENSION UNTIL OCTOBER, 2020. But my gross income as shown on the Tentative Schedule C form is pretty accurate for 2019.

#3) NOTE: I tried using your online PUA Application Process as requested in your letter. In the part where it asks for retroactive weeks I was unable to work or earn income as an attorney, THE ONLINE PROGRAM DID NOT ALLOW ME TO ENTER INFO FOR THE WEEKS AFTER JUNE 27, 2020... so that information is not part of my online Application. However, I have been filing Weekly Certifications for those weeks after June 27th, so you should have that info.

Alan R. Buchalter
SS# XXX-XX-XXXX

Alan R. Buchalter
XXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXX
Customer ID # XXXXXXXXX and XXXXXXXXX
Phone: XXX-XXX-XXXX

Date: August 26, 2020

To Oregon Unemployment PUA Director:

Re: RESPONSE to Your Correspondence Dated 08/13/2020 Requesting Info Re:
PUA Application

I received two mailed letters dated 08-13-2020 from OED late last week containing some erroneous information. I was asked to respond to your incorrect assertions that I have stopped claiming benefits. I did claim PUA benefits for these two weeks addressed in your letters: 07-19-2020 thru 07-25-2020 and 08-02-2020 thru 08-08-2020. See attached letters.

#1) These letters dated 08-13-2020 stated I must respond to them within 7 days. That is virtually impossible. I did not receive these letters until 08-20-2020 due to SLOW MAIL DELIVERY BY THE USPS. I immediately tried calling the listed phone number (503) 370-5400, MANY, MANY TIMES to respond to your letters and I WAS NEVER CONNECTED to anything or anyone. Every time I just got a fast busy signal and no connection, no response, no one answered and I could not speak to anyone in your office. THIS HAS BEEN A CONTINUING PROBLEM FOR ME FOR THE PAST FIVE MONTHS!

#2) In response to two emails I was sent by your office earlier in August requesting I RESUBMIT MY PUA APPLICATION, I did resubmit my PUA Application online on August 13, 2020, and I printed out a page which indicated that my online Application submittal was successful. See attached to this letter. YET, I got these two letters dated August 13, 2020 claiming those two weekly PUA certifications were denied because I had not submitted a new PUA Application.

NOTE: I filed my first PUA Application online on in June 2020 after I had initially filed a UI Application in April or May, 2020, before the PUA Application was available on your website. You acknowledged receiving my first PUA Application on 06-15-2020. Since April, 2020, I have filed MANY Weekly PUA Certifications online, going back to no self-employment income since late March, 2020, and have receipts from OED indicating you received them.

#3) When I resubmitted my PUA Application on 08-13-2020, with my letter to OED of the same date, the online PUA Application form asked me to input data for previous weeks I had applied for the PUA benefits and THE ONLINE FORM DID NOT ALLOW ME TO ENTER DATA FOR ANY WEEKS AFTER JUNE 27, 2020, it simply would not accept any more dates. I stated this to you in my accompanying letter dated 08-13-2020. HOWEVER, I have filed online Weekly PUA Certifications for almost every week of the Pandemic before and after June 27, 2020, with the exception of a week including July 4th, 2020, when I was out of town for the Holiday. I believe I have confirmations from the OED online system for every week I filed the

Weekly PUA Certification for, but then I received these two letters which indicate to me that your department is not managing these Applications and Weekly Certifications promptly or properly.

#4) . I've heard news reports that you are having backlog problems...BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS! I think this is the forth or fifth letter I've sent to OED concerning my various PUA Applications and Weekly Certifications...AND I HAVE NOT RECEIVED A PENNY IN PUA ASSISTANCE AT ALL. NOT ONE CENT!!! And this is after four or five letters and almost five months of seeking this assistance!!!

IN CONCLUSION, I've responded to every request from OED AS PROMPTLY AS I COULD given the fact that I was never able to get through on the phone lines, both (503) and (833) numbers, I HAVE CALLED THESE NUMBERS AT LEAST 100 TIMES AND I NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET THROUGH! For the life of me, I can't understand how OED has failed to process my PUA Applications and Weekly Certifications after five months...and I HAVE NOT RECEIVED A CENT IN PUA ASSISTANCE!!!

These letters stating I must respond within 7 days were pathetic! The USPS is slowed down delivering mail and I have never been able to get through on any of the phone lines! This sets up a terrible catch-22 and I would ask that someone get ALL OF THIS straightened out ASAP. I believe I am entitled to the PUA I've applied for and I still have not received anything.

Alan R. Buchalter
SS# XXX-XX-XXXX