

Senators,

It has been 22 weeks since I first applied for unemployment benefits and I have yet to receive a dime. I applied for benefits on April 5th after I was laid-off (permanently) from my job due to COVID. Since I was only an employee as of Jan 1, I was denied regular unemployment due to lack of time for my base months, even though my layoff was 100% due to COVID closures. Since I was a contract employee and self-employed last year, I immediately applied for PUA once it was established.

My claim was only "processed" two weeks ago and my weekly claims report currently only shows that I've submitted 6 instead of the actual 14. It's glaringly obvious that the Unemployment Department's refusal to update their computer systems is the main reason why so many of us haven't been paid.

To this day, I have received zero phone calls or emails regarding my application and why I haven't been paid. After calling the department over 100 times per day, I finally gave up. I am waiting on 14 weeks of claims, totaling over \$10,000.

I am exhausted and furious.

Lydia Rhyne