

This is a testimony of my experience with the Oregon unemployment department. I am a school teacher that works for a small private school. I was laid off due to school closure. I was receiving unemployment benefits until benefits were interrupted in the middle of June.

Information sent to me by the employment department was that I needed to re-qualify to make sure that I was actually supposed to be getting paid throughout the summer. My contract for my job clearly states I will get paid for 12 months.

Now I have been without unemployment benefits for 12 weeks. With nothing more than a message telling me, "don't call us, we'll call you." I am a single mom with two young boys. I have no funds to pay bills. I cannot pay my mortgage. Soon automobile insurance will be cancelled. My perfect bill pay history is ruined! I cannot understand how making people wait this long is acceptable. And I know there are people who have waited longer.

Every time I try to call the unemployment department, which is several times throughout the day the phone lines are busy. I have tried emailing through the unemployment online help form. I have emailed several senators. The \$500 for those that were not up to date with their benefits was a joke. The funds ran out within a day and a half with so many other people left behind.

All I can say is this is a disaster and shameful to expect people to go this long without funds! There has got to be a better way of handling this!

Amy Garee