

Today, I am writing to you regarding my experiences of applying unemployment through the Oregon Employment Department. I initially filed 5/30/2020 and provided the Oregon Employment Department my reason for being discharged and that I worked for White City VA Rehabilitation Center & Clinics in White City, Oregon which is a federal employer.

Over the last 14 almost 15 weeks I regularly called the Oregon Employment Department multiple times to get the issues resolved in my case. I was given misinformation, conflicting information and promised to follow up from EOD tier II employees with EOD Lead worker which did not come until about two weeks ago.

I was told that on multiple occasions that the Tax Department was handling the request for my federal wages. Then I was told it was not actually the Tax Department which made the request but a different unit. Then I was told that the request verifying my federal wages had been previously done but were done incorrectly. It was not until I got Representative Kim Wallan of House District 6, Medford involved that any real action was taken by the Oregon Employment Department. My federal wages were not requested until 8/19/2020.

But that does not change that my Federal wages still have not been received. It does not change that on 9/3/2020 my Federal wages will be requested once again with the W2 which I provided multiple times. Once Oregon Employment Department receives my Federal wages I will have to go through the adjudication process which I have been told will be anywhere from a week to 16 weeks in addition to the almost 15 weeks I have been waiting.

I have bills due, and while I understand the struggles of demands which have been placed on the Oregon Employment Department, still inexcusable what I and hundreds of thousands of unemployed Oregonians are still experiencing.

I have went as far as seeking out legal counsel in case my claim continues to drag on. The attorney made the request that I get my case notes in case legal action must be taken. I made the request and was told that case notes can only be released if an appeal is made on an administrative decision.

Enough is enough and we need help. People are struggling and getting further and further behind because of the dysfunction of the Oregon Employment Department. The inefficiency and ongoing problems need to be immediately addressed and resolved.

Sincerely,

Belindy L Bonser