

After listening to the three days of hearings and the public comment live, and then listening to the summations involving the representatives on the committee, I must agree with the recurring public comment theme that demands accountability and action and real oversight instead of the current abysmal status quo.

Thousands of people in deep difficulties because the Unemployment Department cannot timely meet its responsibilities or even answer phones to provide modest technical assistance or direction (which btw would save vast amounts of time due to filing errors and confusion) are not going to see any change. Nothing in these hearings or the statements of the legislators or the Unemployment Department acting director gave these people any hope that anything was going to accelerate OR that an accountable process was operating, or firm goals being set or met or promised.

You need visible, categorical, and decisive action. Phones that work, and resources and personnel dedicated immediately to the areas that are falling short. Not just leaving it up to time and the business as usual parsing of claims at the current horrific rate of resolution.

The current rate of case resolution is not adequate and not seeing decisive action is working in the favor of blaming the majority for doing nothing while thousands of people suffer and are being punished -- because people at the state have both not done their job in flexing to meet the crisis, and they have not thought through the situation and adapted and applied overwhelming resources and personnel when they KNEW that the situation was extraordinary.

They have had going on 6 months to assess, plan, train, test, and roll out programs that by legislative definition were supposed to get money to people as quickly as possible. And yet massive amounts of people are being delayed and cannot even find out why or talk to a real person. Constant busy signals, hours and hours of waiting time,... NOT ONE LEGISLATOR IN THIS HEARING SAID THAT THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, not one legislator took the Department to task for its non performance and breaking and narrowing of all public communication that could at least help people understand where they are.

Instead uncertainty and hoped for improvement is all that is offered. This is not decisive or accountable action and with enough disenfranchisement of the constituency, the electoral fallout would not be a surprise. And again, I vote Democrat. Again too, you cannot say, "This is no time to point fingers." because these problems have causes that must be addressed -- and those not addressing them either need to fix that or be replaced by someone who can.

Meanwhile, a disabled individual who is eligible for PEUC that I am helping, has received no reply since the beginning of July (8 weeks and counting) on the adjudication of her very simple claim for the extension of UI benefits after a small job she lost because of Covid.

The Federal money, not even yours btw so it is not a budgetary issue, just sits there. Way to go. Almost as much fun as the fraudulent mortgage crisis programs.

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"... Розриваючи серце п'ятьми ціною своїх поламаних життів і розбитих мрій."

"...The cost of breaking the heart of darkness is their broken lives and broken dreams."

- Evhen Konovalets, A leader of the Ukrainian Liberation Movement