

Senate Hearing – September 1-3, 2020

Hello Committee. [day 1] I am compelled to reach out to you after spending 4 hours watching and listening to the hearing this morning. As a person living the nightmare of filing for PUA beginning March 22, 2020, a total of 24 weeks and I still have not received any of my benefits both state and CARES Act, it seemed the conversation was a CYA event by the OEN Acting Director exhibited over a grueling 4 hours.

[day 2] The one question not addressed or answered? When will we get our benefits? That is all anyone cares about. Not this history or how to get people back to work which you are discussion tomorrow. This is all like lip service and waste of time to those you seek to help. Or is the intent to possibly cover bases on the liability of not paying the CARES ACT to Oregonians?

As an Oregonian, waiting and waiting for now almost 24 weeks of benefits owed, the conversation in today's hearing actually made me more upset, like putting salt into a wound, that our Oregon government has allowed this utter incompetence to continue for months without addressing it. Do you remember the hundreds of people who lined up a few weeks ago for the \$500 dollars? What a disgrace to inflict this upon Oregonians to have to wait days in line for \$500 BEFORE the funds ran out. I feel our leadership has lost touch with the reality of the situation and its effects on individual human lives and families.

Mr. G and OED have spent months demonstrating their complete incompetence. If this were the private sector, they all would be fired. Why is this allowed to continue in government when hundreds of lives are in the balance?

I have reached out to the Governor, and several Senators. As well as KGW and KATU. I am at a loss as what to do. Today I believe at the end of hour 4, Mr. G [OED acting director] stated it would be mid-December before PUA claimants received their benefits. Did I hear this correctly? If so, this is tyrannical, the Oregon government and OED exercising cruelty upon Oregonians.

I request the following on behalf of fellow Oregonians:

1. What is the definitive date ALL PUA claimants will finally receive their benefits?
2. Could you confirm the number of PUA people have been paid with Mr. G.?
3. If the Care Act is not paid to claimants by December 31, 2020, do the funds revert back to the U.S. Government? In other words, PUA claimants lose out due to the Oregon Government not stepping in to solve this problem?
4. Also, since Mr. G. says PUA is completely outside of OED, could we not review the Federal oversight and compliance requirements of the U.S. Gov to find out if PUA management and payment of PUA claims can be processed and paid through a private sector company.
5. After the second day of listening to Mr. G has admitted 2021 is his goal for PUA. This is unacceptable to human life in Oregon.
6. Pay the private sector to get the job done. These bunglers will never get it done.

7. 4. Mr. G. definition of “progress” does not include paying claims to people. Only how hard his agency is working.

My question to the Oregon Legislature.

1. Can you and your fellow Senators and Congressional leaders come up with a solution to advance benefits to those of us waiting for benefits for many months now? A loan program repaid when PUA benefits are finally paid to Oregonians? Maybe ask you colleagues to pretend they had not received a paycheck since this past March?

I know it is hard for everyone on the call today who gets a paycheck to truly understand the hypocrisy of this situation, even though Mr. G continued over and over again describe his pain in “feeling” our pain.

Thank you for your attention and time in reading this letter.

C Holcomb