

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to include my testimony in the senate hearing for Oregon. I am desperate for someone to see this, I am on week 11 of my claim and now the office has flagged my claim as "having a problem, and that they will write a letter explaining", only no letter has been forthcoming. I have called for weeks and there is no answer the line is busy for hours, no response for emails, I have even reached out to director level employees whose contact information I received from other claimants, but nothing has worked.

My family has had to move in with my grandparents, we are looking at losing our only vehicle, we have no income, none. I have two kids, one of which will be distance learning this fall, how, if I hadn't moved in with family, would I have been able to facilitate that? I don't know, because how do you distance learn when you have no home and no internet?

How do you explain to your child you can't go school supply shopping or buy new much needed clothes for her? I've worked my whole life with zero gaps in employment, and now when I finally needed unemployment, through no fault of my own, it's not here for me and I am unable to support those who count on me the most. You in this hearing will not know how that feels, you all have continued to collect your incomes, not worrying about asking family to take your family in, worrying about having my autistic teenager have to try and distance learn from a home that isn't even her own. You all were elected to serve us and you have failed at every juncture.

I am a volunteer firefighter. I know a little about signing up for a thankless job, but every time I'm called to a fire I respond, I place my life on the line to protect the people of Oakland Oregon. I don't get to say a pandemic is going on and I am homeless so I can't. I need you all who were chosen, who ran for these positions, to please hear us and help.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Brian Burke Jr
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Sutherlin, OR
Douglas County