Dear representatives,

Please do not add personal information for public to see. Testimony ok to share with public anonymously

I was laid off in March and have not received my benefits even though they called me 3 weeks ago, after advocacy from my local senate representative, and said they were processed and on their way. The employment department, collectively, is not communicating accurate information which is a sign of failed leadership, not failed computers. Sure it was failing long before this new person stepped in, but part of his role includes taking responsibility. I can't pay rent or bills and have exhausted all savings/credit cards/loans to survive these scary months. I wasn't really angry but you know what is boiling my blood is this his quote form Gerstenfeld.

"We are living through a huge disaster," Gerstenfeld said. "I do disagree that it's a disaster caused by the employment department."

 Communication like this that defers blame using tricks of language is not productive and in fact is crushing to morale in a time like this. We can feel through that and it feels insulting. I wasn't mad and now I am. I am so tired of deferred blame, deferred accountability, and what feel like automated responses. Of course the employment department didn't cause the pandemic. Please prioritize leadership positions for people who know how to unite and uplift people. Not only did he defer blame, but he reinforced all of our fears, which are that we are in a "HUGE" disaster state (as opposed to being reassured that things are being repaired). I do not think this Gerstenfeld is the right person for this job or at least spokesperson for this job. If he is an expert at computer programming, then let him do that and put someone who is authentic and who can speak to the hearts of people in need. He is not representing us with this kind of statement. There is zero utility in deferring blame and elevating fears in this situation.

Please consider emergency basic income if this , like Gerstenfeld said, a HUGE disaster, which has no signs of ending.

Thank you,