



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 · MADISON, WI 53708

May 4, 2020

Caleb Frostman, Secretary  
Department of Workforce Development  
201 E. Washington Ave  
PO Box 7946  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Frostman,

Thank you for your service and leadership at the Department of Workforce Development during this trying time. The rate at which Unemployment Insurance claims have come in to the Department is likely unprecedented in our state's history and we know you and your team are working hard to respond as quickly as possible.

Like the Department, we have been working overtime to respond to constituent inquiries, particularly inquiries dealing with Unemployment Insurance applications and claims. By far, a majority of the inquiries we have received are from constituents that have had applications placed into review. Most of these individuals have been unable to contact someone at the Department and have been without any source of income for upwards of four weeks or more while the Department conducts its review. In fact, recent reporting has indicated that over 438,000 weekly claims are still unpaid.

Understanding this, we urge the Department to explore all options to speed up the processing of claims, including pre-approving certain Unemployment Insurance claims that have a high likelihood of approval pending any reviews the Department may need to conduct.

Pre-approving claims will reduce the extra stress our constituents face as a result of the pandemic and resulting economic downturn. It will also eliminate the weeks that many of our constituents have had to endure without any source of income.

If a federal waiver is necessary to implement this change, we stand ready to advocate for and support a waiver from the Department to the federal government.

Again, thank you for your service. We look forward to hearing back from you.



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Terry Katsma

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Mike Kuglitsch

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