



House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Bryan Cutler
Speaker of the House of Representative
139 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Speaker Cutler,

The economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are worldwide, but the effects are felt by those who were untimely separated from their place of unemployment without an income during this pandemic. This has created financial struggles for many residents because of issues they encountered when dealing with the outdated and obsolete Unemployment Compensation System in the Commonwealth.

Many individuals have gone weeks, and some even months, without receiving any income due to the outdated system. Each year the General Assembly has designated funds to be put towards the UC program for system upgrades. Despite these systems upgrades and continued work on overall system modernization, our program has failed to handle the strain of the 2.1 million unemployment claims created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We therefore request that you refer an investigation to the House Government Oversight Committee into the failure of the Unemployment Compensation Program. While we appreciate the work of Secretary Oleksiak during this pandemic and towards system modernization, we urge that this investigation take place so that we can move forward to ensure that should another pandemic, or similar situation, hit the Commonwealth, the residents of Pennsylvania can be assured that they will not face the same issues.

We trust that our Commonwealth will emerge from this crisis, but we also need to ensure that our safety nets are prepared to support the weight of any situation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy O'Neal".

Timothy O'Neal
State Representative
48th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph P. Ciresi".

Joe Ciresi
State Representative
146th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

cc: The Honorable Kerry Benninghoff, House Majority Leader
The Honorable Frank Dermody, House Minority Leader