

DAN DEASY, MEMBER
436 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 100
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15220
(412) 928-9514
FAX: (412) 565-3170

304 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202027
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2027
(717) 772-8187
FAX: (717) 787-7388



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEE
LIQUOR CONTROL
DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN
WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/DEASY
@RepDeasy

May 1, 2021

The Hon. Tom Wolf
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

I am writing to express my deep concerns and growing frustration with the processing of unemployment compensation claims. I understand that we are experiencing unprecedented times as COVID-19 has resulted in record-breaking numbers of claims, but no claimant should be waiting month after month for a determination.

We are fourteen months into this pandemic and millions of Pennsylvanians are still unemployed. Nearly 300,000 claimants are still awaiting a determination for benefits due to a separation issue, many of those for six or more months.

As the Department of Labor & Industry approaches implementation of the Unemployment Compensation (UC) modernization system, I am extremely concerned that these 300,000 cases are going to get lost in the transition. I would greatly appreciate hearing what steps are in place to resolve these cases immediately. These Pennsylvanians need and deserve an answer now.

Additionally, I respectfully request and urge in the strongest of terms that you provide the Department with all resources necessary to resolve these cases **before** the implementation of the new system.

I urge the Department to issue a determination on all pending cases **before June 1**. For those deemed eligible, they have waited far too long for benefits they have earned and desperately need. For those the Department deems ineligible, let us move the process forward now and provide these claimants their right to an appeal.

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On any cases that are denied as well all other cases that are already in the appeal process, I urge the Department to establish a 15-day rule whereas all appeals are heard and resolved within 15 days.

Thank you for your time and prompt attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Deasy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DAN DEASY

State Representative

cc: Acting Secretary Jennifer Berrier
 PA Department of Labor & Industry
 The Hon. Joanna McClinton
 Democratic Leader
 The Hon. Gerald Mullery
 Minority Chair, House Labor & Industry Committee