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Senate of Pennsylvania
April 7, 2020

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The Honorable W. Gerard Oleksiak
Secretary – Department of Labor & Industry
1713 Labor & Industry Bldg.
651 Boas Street Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Oleksiak:

During these unprecedented times, I believe that we need to set politics to the side and come up with solutions. You and I have worked well together over the years even if we haven't seen "eye to eye" on everything. It is time to put our heads together again to work on a solution to help the overwhelming numbers of unemployed Pennsylvanians.

My office has been inundated with calls from constituents who have experienced problems with getting through to the unemployment office. This cannot continue. Government agencies that our citizens rely on cannot afford to stumble in times of crisis. I know that you take this seriously, and I want you to know that my office is here to help in any way we can.

This brings me to the point of this letter. What does your Department need from the Legislature to ensure our citizens expeditiously receive the funds they so desperately need? As such, what steps has the Department taken to address the substantial increase in unemployment compensation filings and to respond in a timely manner to calls from citizens?

You may already be developing ways to address the numerous issues that have resulted from the COVID-19 mitigation effort, but I want to assure you that I am working diligently from the Legislative side and stand ready to help where I can.

Please respond with a letter that describes what the Department is doing now to help our citizens and to inform me how I can help in the future. This will also be helpful when my staff is dealing with constituents that are calling my office desperate for help.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Laughlin".

Dan Laughlin
State Senator
49th Senatorial District