SALEM, ORE. – Today, the House Committee on Business and Labor met to hear from the Oregon Employment Department on the backlog of unemployment claims and the problems plaguing the agency’s response. They have released the following statements:

“While there have been problems with communication to Oregonians about their unemployment claims, I want to point out to Oregonians that we need to recognize the lack of preparedness and misguided priorities that got us here today. While there have been failures within the Department and Oregonians are still suffering, we cannot ignore the lack of importance the leaders in this state over the past decade have placed on being prepared for such a time as this.” – Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis (R-Albany).

“It is past time for Governor Brown to prioritize support of the Oregon Employment Department as they deal with the fallout of her executive orders, which forced so many to the unemployment lines. We need swift action, not excuses. Oregon’s unemployed workers deserve access to the benefits they have earned. The money is there, it’s time to get these workers paid.” – Rep. Daniel Bonham (R-The Dalles).