



From the office of

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GOP Lawmakers Express Frustration Over Employment Department Hearing

Salem, ORE. - Representative Shelly Boshart Davis (R-Albany) issued the following statement upon the conclusion of today's House Business and Labor Committee hearing. The committee took more than an hour of testimony from Employment Department Leadership but failed to allow lawmakers to ask any live questions of the agency's leaders.

"I've heard from countless Oregonians over the last few months regarding their frustration accessing the unemployment benefits they are rightfully due. Many of them are rightfully furious over spending hours upon hours trying to get through to someone in the department who could assist them. The horror stories are endless and have been well documented by the press. I am incredibly frustrated that lawmakers were not given an opportunity to ask questions of the Department's leadership, including how we ended up in this mess, when the agency realized they had a problem, were they given notification of the Governor's Executive Orders which essentially put tens of thousands of Oregonians out of work overnight, what took them so long to respond and when - exactly - can unemployed Oregonians expect to receive the benefits they have earned. This is just the latest glaring example of lack of accountability under our state's leadership. This is a deeply human crisis and the state has failed miserably. Oregonians deserve answers."

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