



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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House Democrats Applaud Plan to Provide \$500 Relief to Oregonians Waiting for Unemployment Help

SALEM, Ore. – House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner (D-Portland) issued the following statement on the announcement of a plan to provide one-time \$500 payments for Oregonians still waiting on their unemployment benefits:

[“I applaud the call today from Speaker Kotek and Senate President Courtney to utilize the limited resources at the Legislature’s disposal to give people still waiting for their unemployment benefits a \\$500 check as soon as possible.”](#) This is an important stop-gap measure.

“For the thousands of Oregonians still waiting for unemployment checks, the wait has been excruciating and unacceptable. We hear the desperation daily from our constituents, some of whom have been waiting for months. [I issued a call in May for bold action from the Employment Department to clear the backlog.](#) I appreciate the work that has been done and salute the front-line employees working overtime to make progress on the backlog, but there is still so much left to be done.

“Throughout this crisis, we must ensure that we are putting people first, especially those who’ve been most impacted. That means putting pressure on Republicans in Congress and the Trump Administration to provide relief for working families and local governments providing critical services. That means extending unemployment benefits and giving states flexibility to remove unnecessary barriers to getting people the money they need. And that means dramatically improving how the Oregon Employment Department is serving the needs of tens of thousands of struggling Oregonians.”

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