

Hon. Josh Shapiro  
Attorney General  
Strawberry Square, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Hon. Jennifer Berrier  
Secretary of Labor & Industry  
1700 Labor and Industry Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Hon. Tim DeFoor  
Auditor General  
Finance Building  
613 North Street, Room 229  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Hon. C. Daniel Hassell  
Secretary of Revenue  
1133 Strawberry Square  
Harrisburg, PA 17128

Hon. Stacy Garrity  
Treasurer  
129 Finance Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Unemployment Compensation Fraud

Dear Attorney General Shapiro, Secretary Berrier, Auditor General DeFoor, Secretary Hassell and Treasurer Garrity:

It is with great concern that we ask you and your agencies to take prompt and decisive action in stemming the overwhelming wave of fraudulent UC claims that have adversely affected our constituents, both employees and employers, in recent days. We have never seen anything near this level of fraud and we must work together to end this rampant criminal activity at once.

While we are aware that the Department of Labor & Industry has been working feverishly to keep up with the claims for unemployment benefits, we cannot lose sight of the fact that we are compromising our workers' identities and wasting an exorbitant amount of taxpayer dollars. We are calling on all of you to join forces to do whatever it takes to restore integrity in the system. It is simply unacceptable that so much time and effort is being spent to process fraudulent claims at the expense of the innocent victims who have not filed claims, and those who are waiting to have legitimate claims processed.

Unfortunately, we are hearing from employers that operate in multiple states that not only are the UC fraud claims in Pennsylvania far more numerous here than any other state, but that the UC paperwork is considerably more cumbersome, further burdening pandemic-weary business owners who are struggling to find workers and keep their businesses running and their employees and customers safe.

We join together with members of our business community in calling on you to create a multi-agency task force which will hunt down the criminals, implement antifraud technology and procedures, conduct an audit of UC processes during the pandemic and get an accounting as to how much tax money is being wasted approving false claims, and being stolen by criminals from the UC fund.

We will be happy to work with you to provide solutions to these problems. We cannot continue to sit by while our constituents suffer. After a year and a half, UC phone lines still go unanswered much of the time and the fraudulent claims are just adding exponentially to the calls being made to the Department. Additionally, this is taking the time of those who could be approving claims away from that task to deal with those who have found themselves in a situation where their identity has been compromised.

Please let us know how you plan to address this very serious situation and how we as legislators can assist you in dealing with this problem.