

My Comment:

My Name is Tia Marie Sanders and I would like the committee to consider not interrupting the UIA benefits as they currently stand.

Doing This would force every person receiving benefits to submit proof that they are job hunting every week. With little consideration to the fact that hundreds and thousands of local businesses are closed. Many workers making 4 to 6+ digit income are nowhere near replacing that income in the current job market. The job market is also lacking the necessary medical benefits lost due to closures. And about half the state schools are still closed or will be closed for the summer - putting mothers and fathers at an undue and discriminatory burden and disadvantage to those parents.

We know how hard it already is to receive payments. We can NOT afford increased regulations and delays when so many are already struggling. I STAND UP and OPPOSE reinstating work search requirements until the UIA is prepared to handle it. What those who are proposing this new policy are doing will cause huge delays in getting benefits paid out. Every new regulation the UIA has implemented since the pandemic began results in months of delays for payment delays. Many are still waiting to have their ID verified, for managerial review, or to have open non-monetary issues resolved. It's clear that asking the agency to review job search options each week before benefits can be paid will devastate the already overburdened system and delay payments for those who are already struggling to get by.

I want to make it clear that reinstating work search will only cause further harm to Michiganders currently waiting for their payments. We also need to make sure that those who have been laid off due to quarantine, having to care for children out of school, and any COVID-related lay-off, are able to continue collecting the pandemic benefits that have been promised to them.

Any delay will be viewed by constituents in the community as an act to disenfranchise them and block much needed financial support during a still raging pandemic.

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