



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

May 6, 2020

The Honorable Thomas P. DiNapoli
Office of the New York State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli,

We are urging you to conduct an audit of the New York State Department of Labor and its failure to process unemployment applications and payout benefits to New Yorkers in a timely fashion. Many of the residents we represent in our districts have gone weeks without action on their claims.

Constituents have contacted our offices daily to express their frustration with the Department of Labor's inability to process and effectively communicate with them. Constituents have also informed us about a breach of their personal information, which has been corroborated by various news reports, and may be more widespread than has been acknowledged. These are individuals who accepted the governor's shutdown of the state's economy with the tacit understanding that their government would assist them during what was going to be a difficult time.

It is our hope that you will be able to identify the issues that have plagued the Department of Labor and provide New Yorkers with a thorough explanation of why the unemployment system faltered. The findings of the audit should be presented formally to the Legislature and released publicly by your office.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Griffo
Senator, 47th District

Marianne Buttenschon
Assemblywoman, 119th District

James L. Seward
Senator, 51st District

Mark Walczyk
Assemblyman, 116th District