



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

Date: May 6, 2020

To: Senator Jessica Ramos, Senator James Skoufis, Assemblyman Marcos Crespo,
Assemblyman Kenneth Zebrowski

From: Senator Joseph Griffo, Senator James Seward, Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon,
Assemblyman Mark Walczyk

Subject: Joint hearing on unemployment insurance applications, payments and data breaches at
the New York State Department of Labor

We believe that it is imperative that the Assembly and Senate Committees on Labor, in conjunction with the Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations and the Assembly Committee on Governmental Operations, conduct a joint hearing to investigate issues related to unemployment insurance and the New York State Department of Labor.

Our offices continue to be contacted by constituents regarding the inability of the Department of Labor to process their applications in a timely fashion. Additionally, many New Yorkers who have had their applications accepted have gone weeks without receiving their unemployment benefit.

An issue of similar concern is the release of personal information of applicants. A thorough investigation by the Legislature needs to be undertaken to understand why full social security numbers, addresses, names and quarterly incomes were sent to the wrong individuals by the Department of Labor.

These issues need to be resolved so that New Yorkers can be assured that the next time they require the assistance of the state it will be provided to them when they need it, not when the government can get to it.