

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Ron DeSantis,

We write to urge you to consider immediately establishing a transparent and feasible timeline regarding the issuance of the unemployment assistance benefits to the over 500,000 Floridians who were able to successfully access and complete their unemployment claim since the beginning of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Unfortunately, the precise number of Floridians financially affected by this pandemic are unclear because of Florida's antiquated unemployment claims system. The most recently released numbers from the United States Department of Labor (DOL) show an increase of over 11,000 initial claims for the week ending April 11. Because of the gravity of the issue, it is incumbent upon you to establish a clear and transparent timeline for when Floridians can anticipate receiving the unemployment insurance dollars they earned.

As of March 29, the State of Florida entered into an agreement with DOL to provide Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Currently, all states were eligible to draw down funding from the Treasury to pay for this assistance. A clear timeline is necessary to reassure all Floridians that help is on the way and we ask that you answer the following questions:

- Have you requested the funding from DOL to ensure Floridians will continue to receive PUA?
- When do you anticipate completing the processing of backlogged claims?
- Do you agree to provide daily statewide updates of number of claims resolved and payments made?
- When do you anticipate a fully integrated statewide system for individuals to claim state and/or federal benefits, and receive these payments electronically?

We appreciate your full and fair consideration of these questions and your attention on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

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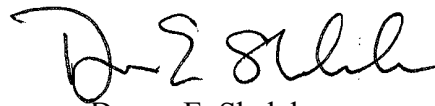
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



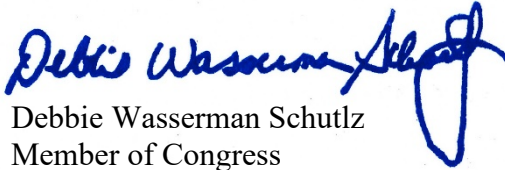
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



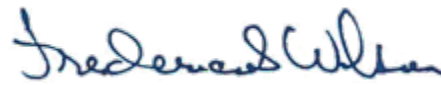
Debbie Mucarsel Powell
Member of Congress



Donna E. Shalala
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress