



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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GOP Weekly Radio Address: Evers Administration Response to Unpaid Unemployment Claims Continues to Lag

Madison...Representative Romaine Quinn (R-Barron) delivers the GOP Weekly Radio Address.

More than 100,000 Wisconsinites are still waiting for a response on their unemployment claims. But, the Evers administration's response continues to lag. I'm State Representative Romaine Quinn from Barron.

Their response has lagged so much that Wisconsin ranks as the worst state in the Midwest for people receiving their first benefit payment within a month of filing. The legislature recognized the growing number of unemployment claims resulting from the pandemic shutdown, so we gave the administration the ability to shift employees from other state departments to DWD. This legislation was enacted in April, but employees were still being moved over as of last week.

A popular excuse from the administration is that the COBOL software used to process claims is antiquated. While it is an old programming language, it's used successfully by 11 other states to process unemployment claims. Additionally, 9 out of every 10 ATM's in the United States run on the same software.

Republicans offered an idea to use funding from the federal CARES Act to get money quickly to the people waiting the longest. Governor Evers, who has sole discretion over spending those dollars, dismissed the idea as a political stunt.

The time for rhetoric and excuses from the Evers administration is over. People can't wait any longer for the benefits they deserve.

Audio: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/eupdates/asm63/Rep.Quinn.UI.mp3>

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