

NEWS RELEASE

Republican Caucus: Democrats refuse to take action to help workers seeking to file unemployment claims

May 14, 2020, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI. – During the May 13th Board of Commissioners meeting, Commissioner **Adam L. Kochenderfer** (R-Rochester Hills) introduced a resolution requesting that the Board of Commissioners urge Governor Gretchen Whitmer to improve the process for filing unemployment claims and ensure that all Michigan residents can obtain prompt assistance with any questions regarding such claims. The resolution specifically noted the challenges residents have faced when attempting to get assistance from the State of Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA).

The Board's Democratic majority voted to decline acting on the resolution. This lack of action sends the message that the matter is not serious or urgent. Yet, according to the Detroit Free Press, some workers have had to wait nearly a month just to file their unemployment claims. While additional resources have been devoted to the UIA, problems persist and Oakland County residents continue to wait to receive the help they need and deserve.

"Unemployment payments are a lifeline to thousands of workers across Michigan," Kochenderfer said. "Any delays in the system deserve immediate attention, not a referral to a bureaucratic committee while families are unable to buy groceries."

"As the elected representatives of the citizens of Oakland County, the Board of Commissioners should be addressing issues that impact the lives of our citizens," Republican Caucus Chairman and Commissioner **Michael J. Gingell** (R-Lake Orion) said. "Being able to quickly and easily file for unemployment during the COVID-19 economic crisis so that families can have the money to buy groceries and pay their mortgages should be a top priority for everyone on this Board. Unfortunately, that proved not to be the case as the Democratic majority failed to take action."

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