

JIM COX, MEMBER
129TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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COMMITTEES

LABOR & INDUSTRY, CHAIR
HEALTH
REPUBLICAN POLICY

APPOINTMENTS

CAPITOL PRESERVATION
COMMITTEE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

July 27, 2021

Hon. Josh Shapiro
Attorney General
Strawberry Square, 16th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Hon. Tim DeFoor
Auditor General
Finance Building
613 North Street, Room 229
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Hon. Stacy Garrity
Treasurer
129 Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Hon. Jennifer Berrier
Secretary of Labor & Industry
1700 Labor and Industry Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Hon. C. Daniel Hassell
Secretary of Revenue
1133 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17128

RE: Unemployment Compensation Fraud

Dear Attorney General Shapiro, Secretary Berrier, Auditor General DeFoor, Secretary Hassell and Treasurer Garrity:

It is with great concern that we ask you and your agencies to take prompt and decisive action in stemming the overwhelming wave of fraudulent UC claims that have adversely affected our constituents, both employees and employers, in recent days. We have never seen anything near this level of fraud and we must work together to end this rampant criminal activity at once.

While we are aware that the Department of Labor & Industry has been working feverishly to keep up with the claims for unemployment benefits, we cannot lose sight of the fact that we are compromising our workers' identities and wasting an exorbitant amount of taxpayer dollars. We are calling on all of you to join forces to do whatever it takes to restore integrity in the system. It is simply unacceptable that so much time and effort is being spent to process fraudulent claims at the expense of the innocent victims who have not filed claims, and those who are waiting to have legitimate claims processed.

Unfortunately, we are hearing from employers that operate in multiple states that not only are the UC fraud claims in Pennsylvania far more numerous here than any other state, but that the UC paperwork is considerably more cumbersome, further burdening pandemic-weary business owners who are struggling to find workers and keep their businesses running and their employees and customers safe.

We join together with members of our business community in calling on you to create a multi-agency task force which will hunt down the criminals, implement antifraud technology and procedures, conduct an audit of UC processes during the pandemic and get an accounting as to how much tax money is being wasted approving false claims, and being stolen by criminals from the UC fund.

We will be happy to work with you to provide solutions to these problems. We cannot continue to sit by while our constituents suffer. After a year and a half, UC phone lines still go unanswered much of the time and the fraudulent claims are just adding exponentially to the calls being made to the Department. Additionally, this is taking the time of those who could be approving claims away from that task to deal with those who have found themselves in a situation where their identity has been compromised.

Please let us know how you plan to address this very serious situation and how we as legislators can assist you in dealing with this problem.

Sincerely,



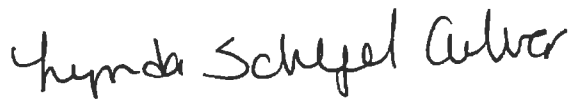
Jim Cox
State Representative
129th Legislative District



Mike Armanini
State Representative
75th Legislative District



Martin Causer
State Representative
67th Legislative District



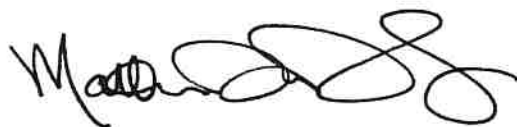
Lynda Schlegel Culver
State Representative
108th Legislative District



Carrie Lewis DelRosso
State Representative
33rd Legislative District



Russ Diamond
State Representative
102nd Legislative District



Matthew Dowling
State Representative
51st Legislative District



Barb Gleim
State Representative
199th Legislative District



Jim Gregory
State Representative
80th Legislative District



Seth Grove
State Representative
196th Legislative District



Joe Hamm
State Representative
84th Legislative District



Mike Jones
State Representative
93rd Legislative District



Dawn Keefe
State Representative
92nd Legislative District



Kate Klunk
State Representative
169th Legislative District



Abby Major
State Representative
60th Legislative District



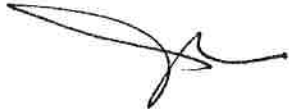
Eric Nelson
State Representative
57th Legislative District



Tina Pickett
State Representative
110th Legislative District



Kathy Rapp
State Representative
65th Legislative District



Jim Rigby
State Representative
71st Legislative District



David Rowe
State Representative
85th Legislative District



Craig Staats
State Representative
145th Legislative District



Martina White
State Representative
170th Legislative District



David Zimmerman
State Representative
99th Legislative District



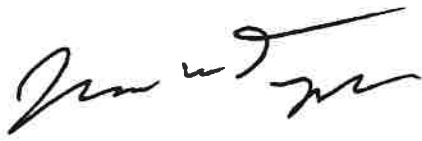
Mindy Fee
State Representative
37th Legislative District



Mark Gillen
State Representative
128th Legislative District



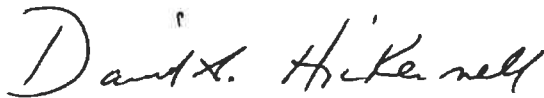
Jack Rader
State Representative
176th Legislative District



Jesse Topper
State Representative
78th Legislative District



Bryan Cutler
Speaker of the House
100th Legislative District



David Hickernell
State Representative
98th Legislative District



Michael Puskaric
State Representative
39th Legislative District



Milou Mackenzie
State Representative
131st Legislative District



Rich Irvin
State Representative
81st Legislative District



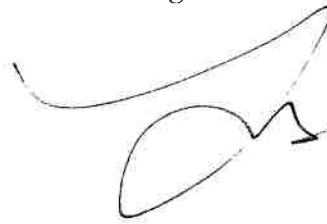
Jeff Wheeland
State Representative
83rd Legislative District



Ann Flood
State Representative
138th Legislative District



Todd Stephens
State Representative
151st Legislative District



Lou Schmitt
State Representative
79th Legislative District



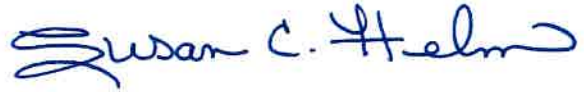
Brian Smith
State Representative
66th Legislative District



Rob Kauffman
State Representative
89th Legislative District



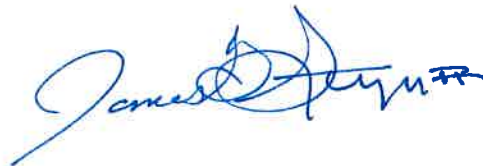
Tracy Pennycuik
State Representative
147th Legislative District



Susan Helm
State Representative
104th Legislative District



David Maloney
State Representative
130th Legislative District



Jim Struzzi
State Representative
62nd Legislative District



Curt Sonney
State Representative
4th Legislative District



Ryan Warner
State Representative
52nd Legislative District



Daryl Metcalfe
State Representative
12th Legislative District



Rosemary Brown
State Representative
189th Legislative District



Ryan Mackenzie
State Representative
134th Legislative District



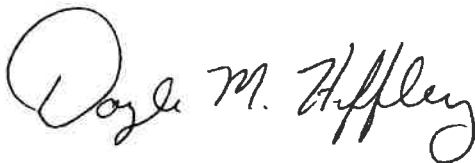
Torren Ecker
State Representative
193rd Legislative District



Aaron Bernstine
State Representative
10th Legislative District



Leslie Rossi
State Representative
59th Legislative District



Doyle Heffley
State Representative
122nd Legislative District

JAC/gvs