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JIM DURKIN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 82ND DISTRICT
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

March 26, 2020

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois
100 W Randolph
JRTC - STE 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601-3220

Dear Governor Pritzker,

While our state and nation are clearly facing unprecedented challenges, we are failing our residents and businesses with the Illinois Department of Employment Security. The employees at that agency are doing all that they can during this emergency but the demand exceeds the manpower.

Day after day members of General Assembly have been inundated with calls from constituents who are not able to access the critical safety net of unemployment insurance due to the failures of IDES. Calls go unanswered, the website does not work and our residents are left without resources during this most trying of times.

I urge you to supplement the efforts of the Illinois Department of Employment Security with a third party or a consulting group to temporarily work in tandem in order to meet the hourly and daily needs of Illinoisans laid off or fired because of this crisis. The private sector has and will continue to partner with us during times of crisis. All ideas are on the table and they need swift and timely consideration.

Also our employers who have been forced, through no fault of their own, to layoff employees with non-essential business closures fear what repercussions the new experience factors will have in their unemployment insurance rates in the future.

Governor Pritzker

March 26, 2020

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During such uncertain times it would be helpful for you to give our businesses certainty that the current mass closures will not result in skyrocketing unemployment insurance rates in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Walsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

House Republican Leader

82nd District

JD/el
