

House Ways and Means Committee  
5/27/2020  
Written Testimony for House Bill 614

Caelan R Laughlin  
Caidon E Laughlin  
1641 Geranium Dr  
Lewis Center Ohio 43035

We are speaking out to shed light on the continual problems with ODJFS during this unprecedented time. We were both laid off on 3/13/2020 by the same employer in Lewis Center. The small family owned business had opened in December of 2019. We were working full time plus until the pandemic. We applied for unemployment benefits the following week- originally the website was crashing and you could not reach anyone by phone. For over 9 weeks we were both denied without any real explanation. Their explanation recently is the 20 weeks in 2019- (Caelan was a full time student in 2019 - Caidon worked over 20 weeks in 2019)

We put in for PUA once that became available- that is where it became worse. (Caelan's) The data breach allowed others to access all the information shared on the application- social security number, name, address, bank information, etc. This started phone calls from a person named "Darren in the Unemployment Tax Office" to contact me (Caelan). My email was also accessed by an individual in Albania 15 minutes after "Darren's" voicemail. After 9 weeks of not being approved/paid my personal information was accessed by multiple individuals who should have never had access.

We are not alone in this situation - many people have suffered financially but now we need to worry how this will impact our future with hackers/criminals being privy to our personal information. If ODJFS needed extra staffing to assist during this pandemic they should have hired laid off workers. They should have tested their websites prior to allowing applicants to enter their personal data. The federal government gave Ohio the funds to pay unemployed individuals and they were not dispersing their funds properly.

It took 9 weeks for (Caidon) to be paid and (Caelan) has still not been approved. Please get this broken system fixed by implementing change and get the funds to the dislocated workers.

This data breach is much more wide spread than ODJFS is sharing with the media/public.

Regards,

Caelan R Laughlin  
Caidon E Laughlin