

## HB 614 Prop. Testimony

Chairman Merrin, Vice-Chairman LaRe and Ranking Member Rogers, I appreciate the opportunity to address you, and the other members of the Ways and Means Committee about House Bill 614.

On March 17th 2020 I was laid off by Buckeye Valley Family YMCA aka Licking County Family YMCA due to Covid 19. I am an hourly employee who has different pay buckets. When I teach I make \$12.00 an hour. When I trained I ranged from \$35.00 to \$50.00 an hour. When I worked as a gym attendant I made \$9.70 an hour and when I was building supervisor I made \$10.34 an hour. During a pay period of two weeks my hours averaged approximately between 45 to 50 hours (2 weeks). My hours would greatly vary as opportunities for a part time employee change. When I got laid off I was encouraged to file for unemployment. I applied for unemployment from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Unemployment Bureau where I already had a closed case. So therefore I had an account set up. I applied I believe approximately a week after getting laid off and was denied. I tried calling daily and was constantly hung up on. I even made sure I was calling the correct phone number on their website corresponding with my last name. I called daily at different times and would wait up to near 20 to 60 minutes each call and the system would hang up or disconnect. I let them know in the faxed correspondence my business Mindi's Gym LLC "The traveling trainer" and YMCA tax statement for last year as per their request. I also faxed them my new married name. I thought I would now be approved. I was still denied. When I filled out the form application for unemployment I explained for the 2020 tax year I decided to close my personal training business. I decided it was better to train people at the YMCA and not have the expenses and insurance to maintain. So for 2020 Mindi's Gym has made "0" so far. I thought for sure I would qualify for some part time unemployment. Still to this date I have received nothing for unemployment from the state. They even have my account on file. I've checked it and still nothing. My part time coworker told me he was getting benefits. I do not understand how they denied me. I do not understand why to this day no one answers the phone when I call and get hung up on.

When it was time on the new pandemic unemployment site to pre-register to apply for the PUA

(Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) I went in and pre registered as instructed. Later on May 12th, 2020 I got an email from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services stating it was time to go in and complete my application for PUA. I went in through the <https://pua.unemployment.ohio.gov/> link that they put in that email. I went in and filled out the data including my ssn, name etc. When I submitted it an error box came up stating I was denied due to an open existing unemployment claim (which as I am aware is denied) and/or because of my employer. I did get one weeks pay of 52.37 hours from the YMCA as they received some assistance to give employees a pay period of pay. I accepted it. This was a one time check deposited on May 15, 2020 for the pay period from 04/27/2020 to 05/1-/2020. I do not believe this would disqualify me for any PUA back pay or pay up to my return to work on May 26th, 2020. To this date I have not received any PUA assistance or unemployment. I have tried calling the number on the PUA site and like the regular unemployment phone line I wait for a long time and it hangs up on me. I also want to mention the "live chat is never available". I do not know what else I can do.

Chairman Merrin, thank you for giving me time to discuss the legislation and I would be happy to answer any questions the members of the committee may have.

Thank you for your help,

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