

U.S. Sen. Baldwin: Joins Democratic colleagues to press Trump Administration on unemployment insurance benefits

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin joined her Democratic colleagues, led by Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), to press the Trump administration to take additional action in ensuring workers receive unemployment insurance as quickly as possible.

The Senators outline a number of actions the administration should take to help states disburse supercharged unemployment insurance: provide technological support, assist states in meeting the requirements to receive administrative funding, expand the capacity of the Department of Labor's verification system, issue outstanding guidance, provide flexibility and proactively reach out to state workforce agencies.

*"In this time of national crisis, it is critical that the Department of Labor (the Department) does everything in its power to support states in administering the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program and distributing benefits. Over 6.6 million Americans filed an unemployment claim in the last week of March. As coronavirus continues to spread, we expect that this number will only get higher," **the Senators wrote.** "The Department and state workforce agencies have a monumental task ahead in processing these claims. But, Americans who have lost their jobs don't have time to wait for a check. People need unemployment compensation now so that they can buy groceries, pay rent, and keep up on their bills. Without it, many Americans won't be able to make ends meet."*

The letter is signed by Senators Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Gary Peters (D-MI), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Tina Smith (D-MN), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Tom Carper (D-DE), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Kamala D. Harris (D-CA), Angus S. King (I-ME), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Bob Casey (D-PA), Jon Tester (D-MT), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Jack Reed (D-RI), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Doug Jones (D-AL), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Mark R. Warner (D-VA), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI).

The full letter is available [here](#) and below. An online version of this release is available [here](#).