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Sous Chef
To whom it may concern,

Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony of my issues with the District of Columbia Unemployment insurance system. I hope my story and information are helpful in rectifying my case and those like me in the District of Columbia.

I initially applied for benefits on March 27th 2020 I was of course denied benefits even though I have work more than enough hours and months in the District of Columbia to receive benefits I called consistently with either a call that couldn't go through or sitting on hold for 7 hours with no answer and my call just hanging up. Therefore, I mailed in the necessary documents listed on the form I received. I continued to call and email with no response. I finally received a response on 6/26/2020 only saying apply in Illinois. No explanation no formality just that. I called in again spoke to a representative of the error that had occurred I was then directed to apply for Pandemic Unemployment assistance. I like everyone else began receiving the minimum amount. In my initial application I provide all the necessary documents for redetermination and backpay. I still have not received and increase in my weekly benefits amount. I still have received no information on my backpay. I have called numerus times waited on hold several hours just to be giving short answer of I don't know, I am not the person who does this, etc. Each time I call I receive a different answer each time. My current weekly amount is \$179 dollars when I am supposed to be receiving \$443. Living in DC with a \$2000 rent, car note, insurance, food, gas, electricity (both gas and electricity that average over 100 dollars for two people by the way is ridiculous) etc. How is a person expected to survive when the main reason I am in debt now is not because of Covid but because someone one the other end of a telephone can't review my paperwork. I have applied for countless Covid Relief programs only to be denied by all of them. Like myself and I am sure most of DC I am not asking for extra money I am asking for the money that is owed to me money that has been paid out to millions of Americans yet has failed to be paid out in the Nations Capital. Money that myself and generations before me have paid in taxes. Being a Chef in an industry that is currently drowning because of the lack of government help my struggles won't end with Covid. It will take years for the Hospitality industry and its workers to get back on their feet just to make ends meet. I hope my testimony along with those like me can help the District of Columbia to rectify this issue.

Best Regards,

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