

Good Afternoon Distinguished Members of the DC Council and The People!

My name is Dia King. I am a Washington DC Native and a Member of ROC DC. I am writing to testify on my experience with UI during the 2020 Covid Pandemic. Before the Pandemic I worked two part time jobs. One was a Tipped Valet for a large hotel in downtown DC. The other was Ridesharing. In March of 2020 I was terminated from the valet job because the hotel closed. I was also not able to continue Ridesharing because of the danger involved. I applied for UI through the online portal. I was able to apply for the Valet work but not the Rideshare work. I was awarded 127 dollars a week for the Valet work that I started receiving about 2 weeks later. After getting a few weeks of the 127, I was informed that I could also apply for Rideshare UI. I sent several emails to the DOES inquiring on how to proceed but I never got a response. Uber also sent me a link on how to apply and what information to include. I tried this, but to this day I still have not had a response to my Rideshare inquiries. So, my experience with UI has been about 50/50. On my Valet side of work applying for Unemployment was quite easy but on my Ride share side it has been a struggle. I think DOES can improve by making it more clear how different occupations can apply. I haven't tried calling because I heard about the horror stories of people calling and I didn't want to be frustrated any more than I already have been. I also didn't want to be greedy so I didn't complain while I was getting the extra Fed 600 but that's now over and I'm down to 127 a week. I feel blessed to not have had to stress going out into a The Pandemic world but now I'm getting concerned as to what to do next. I applaud the work of all individuals (Miss Venorica Tucker, Nikki D and others), entities (ROC, One Fair Wage, and others), the government and government officials (Council Member Silverman for example) to ease the burden of these trying times have placed upon us all. I trust that we will all make it through stronger than ever. To the he's the she's and the they's bless you, me and everyone in ear and eyeshot!

Thank You for allowing me to be heard.