

Public Comment on extended Workforce Investment Act for 4-15-09 deadline

I am 60 yrs. of age and have been unemployed since Oct. 3,2008. I have been in the workforce for 45 yrs. and have never claimed unemployment until now. I always found a job within 2 weeks of unemployment, but I don't know if it is my age or the economy or both, but I have almost exhausted my entire retirement savings due to the high cost of Health Ins. (\$450.00 per mo.) and IRA stock market losses. It scares me to know that I may never have time to make up these losses before retirement but I am eternally grateful that the State has helped me with additional stimulus funds and extend the benefits weeks.

What angers me are the poor wages this State offers its residents compared to other states with the same cost of living and tax base. We add the large number of immigrants, who have not contributed to its economy for at least 10 yrs., who do not speak English, and are taking away our jobs and benefits and straining the Healthcare system from those who have had a lifetime of contributions to the economy.

My other complaints are about the Workforce Unemployment Office:

- 1- They have not return my calls or E-Mails on 4 occasions and it is impossible to call and get thru to a person. Leaving a message is obviously worthless.
- 2- We should never put our Social Security Number **on-line**, along with our Name and Address and Phone Number! Especially since they already had a breach in security once before. You need to use other forms of identification. Talk about kicking a person when they are down and out, not once but twice!
- 3- Try employing more of those that are unemployed, with the obvious lack of workforce needed to run your offices at the One-Stop Centers, since you can't return our calls and E-Mails. Also, why do you shut down offices and make those unemployed people drive farther, when they don't have money to spend on gas or wear and tear on there cars? Talk about a Stimulus package at your own front door.

Suggestions to the problem:

- 1-The Lottery needs to have a bigger piece of the pie going to schools and the local economy. Attack those people and industries who waste money on alcohol and cigarettes, etc. so the State gets a bigger portion for the necessities in life such as roads, fire and police and unemployment benefits.
- 2-- Create outside Auditors and Regulators, to be the watchdogs of the government (state and local) leaders who waste taxpayers money. We wouldn't be in this mess if someone was watching our Banks, Wall Street and Government Regulators.
- 3- **Prosecute offenders**, don't just fire them! Set an example for those who try to payoff Inspectors and Auditors and waste **OUR TAXPAYER'S MONEY!**

If you can clean up your own backyard and structure your Agencies wisely, maybe it won't throw the waste into my backyard and make me suffer as much as I have. I didn't do anything wrong and I'm tired of paying for other peoples lack of foresight and moral responsibility to this State and the Nation.

All I ask is you stick to the most dire issues before you and help **the people** you represent, not the politics and wasteful spending's that got us here in the first place.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice and listen to my opinions. Again, I am really grateful for the help I am getting and grateful for the additional help needed to keep me out of Welfare and Medicaid in the future.