



VIOLA DAVIS  
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 87  
POST OFFICE BOX 830726  
STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA 30083  
EMAIL: viola.davis@house.ga.gov

*HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 404  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
404-656-0109  
404-651-8086 (FAX)

STANDING COMMITTEES  
INTERSTATE COOPERATION  
INSURANCE  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

October 5, 2021

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland,

I am Representative Viola Davis with Georgia House District 87. I am a member of the subcommittee of the Georgia House Democratic Caucus (GHDC) and we join with members of the Georgia congressional delegation to express our deep concern regarding the recent findings of an audit conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Office of Inspector General (OIG), which states that Georgia failed to supply critical data related to the distribution of all the enhanced unemployment insurance benefits provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

As the subcommittee of the Georgia House Democratic Caucus, we will request there be a move beyond a performance audit to a financial audit to assess the factual numbers of valid claims not paid in full and the number of claims paid without proper cross-match to prevent fraud. I request you seek the assistance of the Department of Justice to enforce the rules and regulations to hold the Georgia Department of Labor accountable for its lack of being responsive to state and federal agencies request for critical data, especially due to the fact that over \$23 billion dollars was distributed through the department.



VIOLA DAVIS  
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 87  
POST OFFICE BOX 830726  
STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA 30083  
EMAIL: viola.davis@house.ga.gov

*HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 404  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
404-656-0109  
404-651-8086 (FAX)

STANDING COMMITTEES  
INTERSTATE COOPERATION  
INSURANCE  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

We requested that the U.S. Department of Labor conduct an audit and investigation into the Georgia Department of Labor's failure to pay valid claims in a timely manner in 2020. We submitted this request for a congressional request to the U.S.

Department of Labor for an audit and investigation into Georgia Department of Labor's lack of transparency, discrepancies in data reported in press releases and, on the website, and violation of federal statutes requiring timely payment of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. The audit revealed the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) has failed to provide critical data to completely evaluate if GDOL processed and paid valid unemployment claims and unemployment benefits to qualified claimants in a timely manner.

We reviewed the OIG report- released on May 28, titled, "COVID-19: States Struggled to Implement CARES Act Unemployment Insurance Programs", and we are requested the Georgia Department of Labor immediately comply and supply critical data due to the following:

- The audit found that Georgia failed to supply data on a number of key issues, including the timeliness of benefit distribution and the number of Georgians who requested the federally funded unemployment insurance supplement.
- There are two other states which were unable to provide data on the timeliness of claims through all three federal enhanced unemployment insurance programs.
- There were four other states which apparently did not report the required claims volume data. Georgia is the 'only' state that was unable to provide data on either.
- In other words, the Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) stands out in the OIG audit as uniquely unable to report on its administration of enhanced unemployment benefits.



VIOLA DAVIS  
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 87  
POST OFFICE BOX 830726  
STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA 30083  
EMAIL: viola.davis@house.ga.gov

*HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 404  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
404-656-0109  
404-651-8086 (FAX)

STANDING COMMITTEES  
INTERSTATE COOPERATION  
INSURANCE  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

We recognize the past year put an enormous strain on state unemployment insurance systems. However, we have made every effort to assist the GDOL department's mission to service our constituents and receive their unemployment insurance benefits by using resources within our offices such as the administrative assistants to help with the backlog. We view the findings of this audit to be extremely troubling and leave us no choice but to demand accountability for our constituents that hard working Georgians who are facing the loss of their housing/homes, cars, inability to feed their families, etc. We must advocate for the public.

The finding of this audit coupled with the reasons we have identified for rejecting the legislative portal access pilot agreement justify more aggressive action to ensure accountability for our constituents. We call on Governor Brian Kemp and the Department of Justice to act on this federal audit which once again demonstrates our actions and documentation on GDOL's dereliction of duty were well founded. We must move forward to call for:

- The performance audit elevated to a financial audit.
- The Department of Justice to enforce the rule of law, rules, and regulation to ensure the regulating agencies receive critical data withheld by the Georgia Department of Labor.
- Accountability and oversight of the \$23 billion dollars in state and federal funding that went through Georgia Department of Labor while Commissioner Butler refuses to comply with requests for critical data.



VIOLA DAVIS  
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 87  
POST OFFICE BOX 830726  
STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA 30083  
EMAIL: [viola.davis@house.ga.gov](mailto:viola.davis@house.ga.gov)

*HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 404  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334  
404-656-0109  
404-651-8086 (FAX)

STANDING COMMITTEES  
INTERSTATE COOPERATION  
INSURANCE  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

As elected officials, we have demonstrated that our federal and state legislature and administration can work in true partnership to address the backlog and extremely poor service within GDOL with paying Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims to help stop the suffering of our constituents. Please feel free to contact us for any further details that may help implement this request for supplying critical data for this investigation and audit. We are attaching documents pertaining to the history of this issue. We look forward to hearing from you or Governor Brian Kemp. We ask that you contact me, Representative Viola Davis, at 678-349-6835 or via email at [viola.davis@house.ga.gov](mailto:viola.davis@house.ga.gov). Trust but verify!

With Kindest Regards,

Representative Viola Davis

c/o GHDC Subcommittee COVID-19 Response Team

/s/ Rep. Viola Davis (D-Stone Mountain)

/s/ Rep. Sandra Scott (D-Rex)

/s/ Rep. Kim Schofield (D-Atlanta)

Attachment