

Betty Bryant  
Sidney  
LD 1464

My name is Betty Bryant and I live in Sidney. I want to share my experience with unemployment with the committee and provide comments in support of LD 1464, legislation to eliminate the waiting week for unemployment insurance.

I have been a seasonal employee at LL Bean and have struggled with alternate base periods due to the seasonal nature of my job. Back in January I was laid off and by February had run out of weeks of unemployment. I had to wait until March 26th for the new benefit year to start, at which time I filed a new claim. This new claim had the required waiting week. Basically the existence of the waiting week resulted in me being behind on any income for a total of four weeks.

Being required to wait for a week to get your first week of unemployment feels arbitrary. Things move so quickly nowadays. It feels like missing out on a week of money just makes it harder to pay the bills and stay afloat. I think you should pass this bill and get rid of the waiting week so people don't fall further behind when they lose work.

I do everything right, play by the rules and do honest work. I don't want to go into all the details about my experience with unemployment, but if people have questions about my situation I am happy to answer. I know that this change would help people like me and I think you should vote for this bill.

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