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Dear Senator Ratti,

My name is Armando Martinez and I am writing to you about Covid-19. As you know, your unemployment services are outdated and understaffed, which has caused delays in numerous unemployment claims. Only 271,385 out of the 443,843 unemployment claims seen by DETR from April 8 to April 25 have been processed, and less than 200,000 people have received their benefits. Although it hasn't been a pressing issue in Nevada, several hospitals across the country have been lacking basic supplies that protect themselves and others from Covid-19. In early May, nearly two-thirds of health-care workers have experienced a shortage of face masks and 36 percent have said that they are having a shortage of hand sanitizer as well.

I strongly suggest that Nevada create an updated pandemic action plan. I have provided suggestions that may help in creating a solution to the issues I have mentioned earlier.

I recommended that the state meets a supply goal by the end of each year to ease demands on medical supplies when hospitals get overwhelmed. Supplies could include masks, gloves, beds, hand sanitizers, and other medical supplies that are deemed important.

Unemployment services need to be updated and reorganized. I recommend that two new contact lines should be implemented. One being a phone number and the other being an email address. Both can be used for claim-related issues only and the existing lines could be used for filing claims. Another problem that persists with Nevada's unemployment services is the challenge of getting a hold of a representative. To undertake this problem, I recommend that DETR implements a call back system where citizens can file an issue and be called back another time.

I know that most of these suggestions require funding, therefore, I suggest that Nevada create an emergency pandemic fund that increases every year. We can use a small percentage from the amount of sales tax or gaming tax Nevada receives each year and put it into the emergency pandemic fund. As each year progresses, the more money Nevada will have to fund programs that will assist citizens during future pandemics.

With your help, I strongly believe that Nevada can better prepare for the next pandemic. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you consider my suggestion.

Sincerely,

Armando Martinez