



Comments before the House Commerce Committee
Employer Update on the State of the Kansas Unemployment Insurance
Sara Weaver, Human Resources Director, Valeo Behavioral Health Care
February 4, 2021

Chairman Tarwater and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Sara Weaver. I am the Human Resources Director at Valeo Behavioral Health Care (Valeo) in Topeka, Kansas. Valeo is a non-profit Community Mental Health Center, and a reimbursing employer. Valeo's fraud experience has been overwhelming, given our limited resources and approximately 300 employees.

In the past 60 days, I have responded to 104 fraudulent unemployment claims. This has been such a worrisome, confusing, and time-consuming inconvenience to our staff, as well as extremely inefficient on my end spending approximately 16 hours per week solely on responding to these claims. We have invested many hours guiding staff through the reporting process, in many cases more than one time, in addition to reassuring staff that this breach of their privacy was not due to our internal database being compromised. This issue has impacted morale for our employees when they are already under tremendous stress as they help our community with their behavioral health needs in this Pandemic.

We recently received our Quarterly Statement of Benefit Charges for the period ending 12/31/20 which included fraudulent charges for 25 employees in the amount of \$34,902 before the CARES Act reduction. The remaining \$12,882.07 balance on this statement includes many former employees and an unknown if these benefit charges are fraudulent or legitimate. We cannot afford to pay these fraudulent charges or continue to have our employees negatively impacted by these fraudulent activities.

Our sincere hope is that there can be a speedy resolution to these very unfortunate circumstances and that peace of mind can be restored. The energy you are putting into this issue, and related matters, is very much appreciated for our employees, and the many others who have been negatively impacted.

Sincerely,

Sara Weaver
Human Resources Director
Valeo Behavioral Health Care
785.228.3078
sweaver@valeotopeka.org.