

Office of the Secretary  
401 SW Topeka Boulevard  
Topeka, KS 66603



Phone: (785) 296-7474  
Fax: (785) 368-6294

Ryan C. Wright, Acting Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To Kansas State Employees:

Our state finds itself in challenging times as we respond to COVID-19 and deal with its subsequent impact on our families, friends and communities. Unfortunately, Kansas has joined every other state that is seeing a **historic increase in reports of fraudulent unemployment claims due to identity theft, and it may directly affect you.**

How big is this issue? To date the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) has stopped over 100,000 of these fraudulent claims and this number continues to grow. Nationally, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General estimates that this type of fraud has already cost taxpayers \$8 billion to date, but this could ultimately climb as high as \$26 billion.

Many fraudulent claims use the names and Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of people who have not lost their jobs. Most people impacted do not know they have been a victim of identity theft until they receive a letter from KDOL letting them know that they have *filed* a claim. For public employees it is especially problematic because so much of our information is often more accessible to the public than our peers in the private sector.

If you receive an illegitimate unemployment claim from KDOL, **please take action immediately by reporting it at [www.ReportFraud.ks.gov](http://www.ReportFraud.ks.gov)**. When you report a suspected identity theft claim on our site, the system will generate a police report number and tips for victims to use to help mitigate the damage from the theft. In addition, we are able to stop processing the claim for payment.

Reporting an instance of identity theft to KDOL is *not* a replacement for taking additional steps to protect an individual's personal information, such as notifying financial institutions or credit bureaus. For more information, please access the Report Fraud site.

We want to ensure that each of you is aware of this issue. For our part, we have doubled the size of our fraud department, we have deployed new digital security measures and are working with our federal partners to stop this crime and hold those responsible accountable. However, we need your help to combat the growing threat from identity theft. Together, we can stop this growing problem before it gets worse.

Thank you,

  
Ryan Wright  
Acting Secretary  
Kansas Department of Labor