

# WE ARE YOUR DOL



Kathy Hochul, Governor  
Roberta Reardon, Commissioner

October 3, 2023

The Honorable Glenn T. Suddaby  
United States District Judge  
North District of New York  
James M. Hanley Federal Building  
100 South Clinton Street  
Syracuse, New York 13261

Dear Judge Suddaby:

I am Roberta Reardon, Commissioner of Labor for New York State. Today, I stand before you to represent the defendant's victims, and to speak on behalf of the integrity and dedication of the New York State Department of Labor, an integrity maliciously breached by the defendant, Wendell Giles.

Our great state, at the apex of the COVID-19 global pandemic, faced an unparalleled surge in unemployment insurance benefit claims. To quantify the enormity: the Department disbursed a staggering \$105 billion in benefits during the pandemic, surpassing more than 50 years' worth of benefits in a matter of months. Each dollar symbolized hope, sustenance, and a promise to the citizens of New York. And yet, in these defining moments, Mr. Giles, from within the Department's own ranks, exploited his public position, stole from his fellow citizens in a time of crisis, and betrayed the Department, me, and our colleagues.

While the dedicated men and women of the Department toiled tirelessly, working around the clock to provide these lifelines, Mr. Giles chose to siphon money meant to aid those grappling with the dire effects of a pandemic. He did not merely file fraudulent claims; he struck a devastating blow to individuals who, because of him, now grapple with denied services, obstructed benefits, and unforeseen tax liabilities.

His treachery casts a long shadow on the honesty and integrity of the Department and those that serve, undermining their relentless efforts and unjustly painting them with suspicion. The erosion of public trust in the Department of Labor should not be taken lightly, and I am committed to mending the wounds created by his actions, through time, transparency, and tenacity.

Your Honor, the essence of public service is an unwavering trust and commitment to the people we serve. The gravity of Mr. Giles's deceit and the ripples of his maleficence should not be underestimated as you contemplate his sentencing. I

solemnly implore you, on behalf of the New York State and every individual aggrieved by his actions, to impose the most severe penalty within the purview of the law. We, as a state, demand justice.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roberta Reardon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Roberta Reardon  
Commissioner

RR/lr