

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 1/21/2015 5:12:13 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Unemployment Benefits

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Message:
Dear Governor Haley,

I recently filed a claim for unemployment benefits after I quit a job with the City of Myrtle Beach in August of 2014. I didn't think that I was eligible for the benefit until I read that in some states if the reason is good enough it is possible. I think I had a very good reason but so I applied. After sending in the documentation that was necessary I received a call from SCDEW that my former employer said that I quit for no reason and I didn't make a formal complaint. Well, I did make a complaint to my first line supervisor, then the general manager of the convention center. While I was on family leave they changed my job title and put me on rotating shifts while others in my same shop kept the same hours. I was told that since I had been out on family leave the shop was being completely redone and I either had to adapt or find other work. I was also told that if I wanted to go to school for the new position that I would have to pay for it out of my own pocket. The college course that I would have to take was electrical engineering and I was already enrolled in Horry Georgetown Technical College in the education career path. This happened a week after my mother passed away in my home. I was not comfortable going from a painter to essentially an electrician working on high voltage with no experience or training. I was put on a rotating schedule and made to work by myself in a potentially dangerous job. I feel that I was retaliated against for using my intermittent family leave. The caseworker with SCDEW was extremely rude and didn't want to listen to anything I had to say. She obviously didn't read any of the information I sent them in defense of my claim. I utilized my chain of command and sent in a letter of resignation but the caseworker said that I just quit without filing a formal complaint. I have a witness that worked in the same shop that will write a statement on my behalf saying that they were retaliating against me for taking family leave, which I was entitled to by law. I'm not expecting my denial to be overturned but I do believe that if you have a good enough reason, which I believe I do, you should be able to file and receive unemployment benefits, especially if you went through the proper protocol. I am a 50% disabled veteran and finding a comparable job is nearly impossible. Thank you for your time, I know it's very valuable.