

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

We write to urge you to address the looming expiration of unemployment benefits for millions of Americans before leaving for the year. Without swift Congressional action, 1.3 million jobless workers will have their benefits cut off on December 28th, and nearly another 1.9 million will lose their unemployment benefits over the first half of next year. This would not only be a devastating blow for millions of Americans who are already struggling, but it would also hurt our economy.

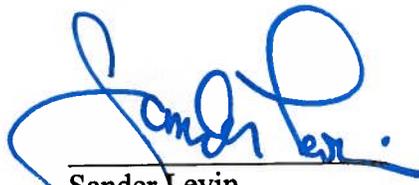
The Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program is scheduled to immediately and completely stop at the end of 2013, during the holiday season, with the last payable week ending on December 28th. All current EUC beneficiaries will lose their benefits, and individuals exhausting their limited state unemployment benefits will no longer be eligible for EUC benefits in 2014. This cutoff will affect over 3 million Americans over the next six months, and thereby also negatively impact our economic growth. In fact, recent estimates indicate that the expiration of the EUC program would cost our economy 310,000 jobs and drain roughly four-tenths of a percentage point from first-quarter economic growth.

While unemployment benefits remain a critical lifeline for dislocated workers and their families, these benefits have recently been significantly scaled back. According to the Congressional Research Service, the total amount of weeks of unemployment benefits has dropped by more than a third across the states, and by more than 50 percent in some states, compared to two years ago. Furthermore, the recipients have seen their weekly benefit payment provided by the EUC program cut under sequestration.

Even with the progress our economy has seen since the depths of the recession, there are still 1.3 million fewer jobs today than when the recession started six years ago. Additionally, approximately 4 million Americans are considered long-term unemployed, and have been looking for work for more than six months. Now is certainly not the time to further decimate vital federal assistance to workers who have lost their job through no fault of their own and who must actively seek work in order to be eligible for unemployment benefits. We therefore strongly urge you to immediately bring up a one-year extension of the current EUC program.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

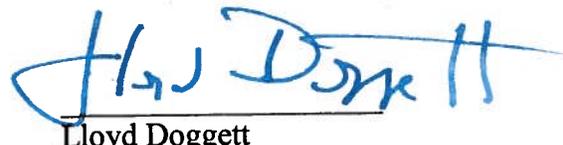
Sincerely,



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

John Lewis
John Lewis
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Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Gloria Negrete McLeod
Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress

Michael Michaud
Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
James P. McGovern
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Julia Brownley
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Member of Congress

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George Miller
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa
Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

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Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Donna M. Christensen
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Member of Congress

Michael Honda
Michael Honda
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Joe Crowley
Joe Crowley
Member of Congress

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Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Carolyn Maloney
Carolyn Maloney
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Karen Bass
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Xavier Becerra
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Jared Huffman
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Bill Foster
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Frank Pallone, Jr.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
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Dan Kildee
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Jackie Speier
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Cedric L. Richmond
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Diana DeGette
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Lois Capps
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Judy Chu
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Ron Kind
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Ann M. Kuster
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Henry A. Waxman
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Marcy Kaptur
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Peter A. DeFazio
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Rush Holt
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Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutierrez
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Suzanne Bonamici
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José E. Serrano
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James A. Himes
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Alan S. Lowenthal
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Mike Quigley
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Allyson Y. Schwartz
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Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress


Nick J. Rahall
Member of Congress


Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

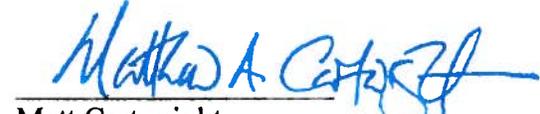

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

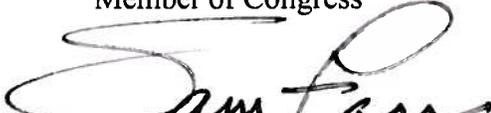

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress


Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress


Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress


Jim Costa
Member of Congress


Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress


Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

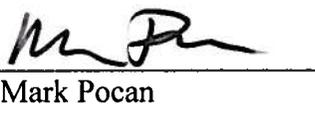

David Price
Member of Congress


James P. Moran
Member of Congress


Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

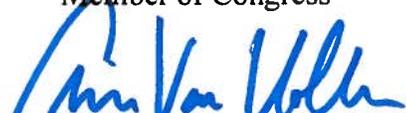

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

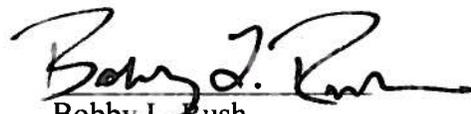

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

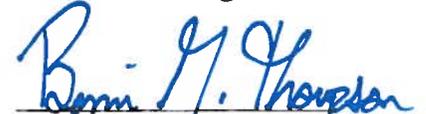

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress


Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

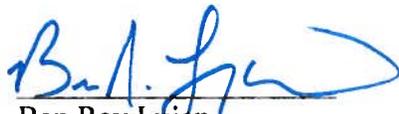

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

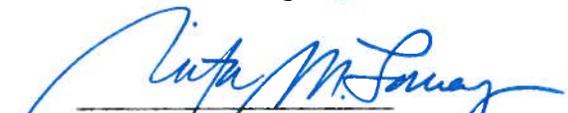

John Delaney
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress


Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress


Alan Grayson
Member of Congress


Nita Lowey
Member of Congress



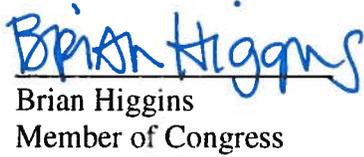
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



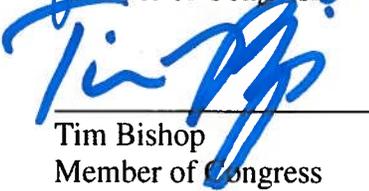
James Clyburn
Member of Congress



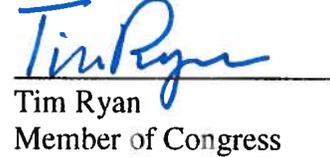
Al Green
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Tim Bishop
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



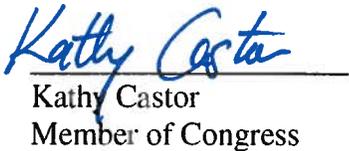
Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



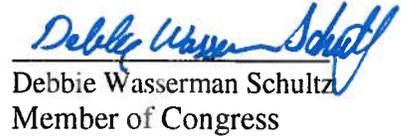
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



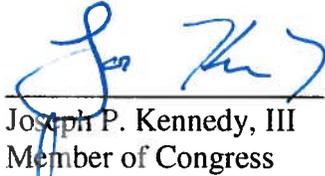
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Rick Nolan
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



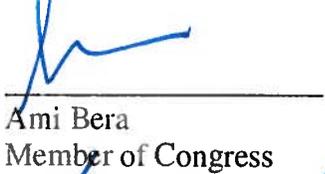
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



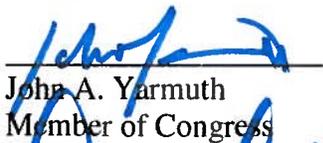
Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



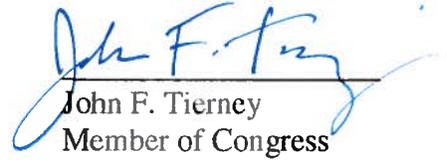
Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress



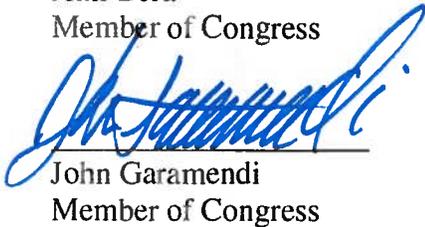
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



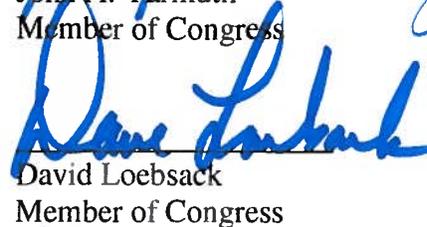
John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress



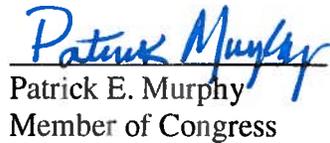
John F. Tierney
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



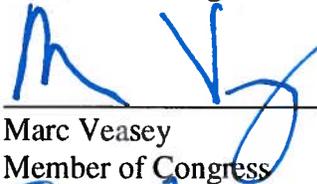
David Loebsack
Member of Congress



Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress



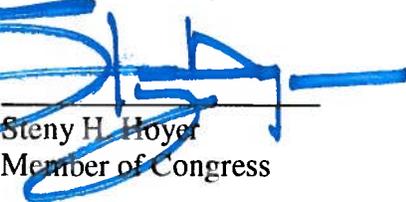
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



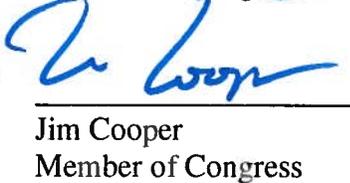
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



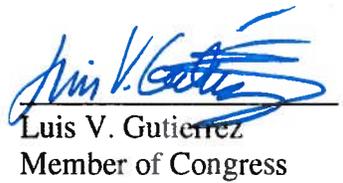
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Pedro R. Pierluisi
Pedro R. Pierluisi
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Steve Israel
Steve Israel
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke
Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Bruce Braley
Bruce Braley
Member of Congress

Michael Capuano
Michael Capuano
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Gene Green
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Rob Andrews
Rob Andrews
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

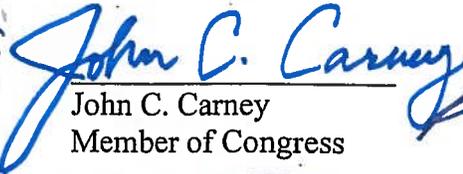
Doris O. Matsui
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

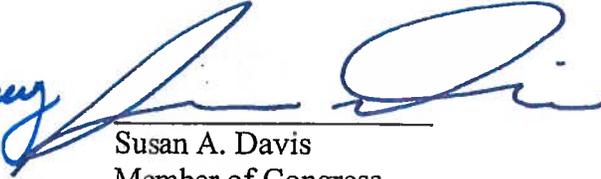
Bradley S. Schneider
Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

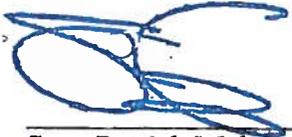
Niki Tsongas
Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress


Daniel B. Maffei
Member of Congress

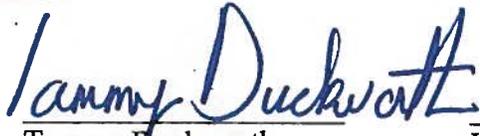

John C. Carney
Member of Congress


Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress


Andre Carson
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

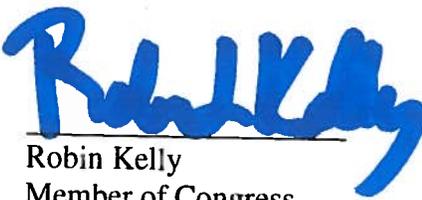

Joe Garcia
Member of Congress

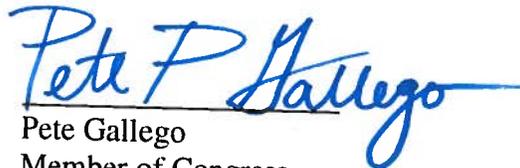

Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

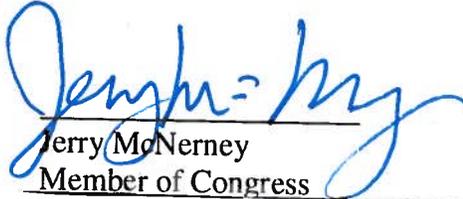

William L. Owens
Member of Congress


Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress


Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Robin Kelly
Member of Congress


Pete Gallego
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Ron Barber
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Adam Smith
Member of Congress