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January 15, 2014

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of The League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's largest and oldest civil rights volunteer-based network composed of passionate community leaders dedicated to empowering Latinos, I write to urge you to support the immediate passage of legislation that funds emergency unemployment insurance compensation.

Over two weeks have passed since the lapse in federal funding for emergency unemployment insurance and, according to some estimates; millions of struggling Americans lost a critical safety net. With the economy still in a fragile recovery period, a stubborn 8.7 % unemployment number for Latinos, and no jobs related legislation in Congress in sight, Americans struggling to find work are looking for leadership and not partisanship.

While we understand that there are budget considerations, we do not believe that the livelihoods of American families struggling to find work should be held hostage to political wranglings. Congress must act quickly as the unemployed are in an emergency situation, desperate to put food on the table, pay their rents, and provide for their families. As you know, extended emergency unemployment helps those families particularly hit hard by the economic downturn. The effects of Americans finding themselves in the long-term unemployed category, are compounded by the negative effects of sequestration, which according to some estimates, will eliminate Head Start opportunities for children, renal assistance for low-income families, housing support for the elderly and homeless, and critical job training and development for unemployed workers.

For these reasons, we urge you to stand with the American people and move to quickly approve legislation that funds emergency unemployment insurance compensation. In addition, we urge you to do so without language that requires offsets that take from other critical programs. The unemployment situation of countless Americans should be treated as an emergency and Congress should find a way to expedite the passage of this legislation without offset requirements so that American families are not kept on the brink.

Sincerely

Margaret Moran  
LULAC National President