



League of United Latin American Citizens

April 8, 2014

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

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I urge you to support the immediate passage of legislation that funds emergency unemployment extension benefits.

As you may know, the Senate recently moved to advance a bipartisan unemployment extension bill and our organization strongly urges you to take action in the House to move this legislation forward. This legislation will provide relief for the 10.5 million unemployed Americans struggling to make ends meet. Over five months have passed since the lapse in federal funding for emergency unemployment insurance, and with the economy still in a fragile recovery period, a stubborn 8.1 % unemployment rate 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 wrangling. 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 compensation helps those families particularly hit hard by the economic downturn. The effects of the 3.7 million 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, rental 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 approve legislation that funds emergency unemployment compensation. In addition, we urge you to do so without language that requires offsets that take away 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