

Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2008 10:02 AM

To: Keiser, Andy

Subject: Unemployment Benefits Extension to Help Michigan Families

I write to you today to share with you my support for legislation to provide an emergency extension of unemployment benefits for workers struggling to find jobs.

With Michigan's unemployment still among the highest in the nation, and with a slowing national economy making it more difficult to find work, many people are struggling to find jobs that will allow them to provide for themselves and their families. An extension of unemployment benefits is crucial for these families.

That is why I have co-sponsored a measure that would provide up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in every state to workers exhausting regular unemployment compensation. Furthermore, in states like Michigan, with high unemployment, the extension would double to 26 weeks. This helping hand to Michigan families is crucial because according to non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) roughly 3.5 million jobless workers nationally will exhaust their regular unemployment benefits this year.

While every American would prefer a job over an unemployment check, unemployment insurance is an important part of our safety net. It allows laid-off workers to meet their families' basic needs while undergoing job retraining and conducting a job search.

During these difficult times we must continue working to strengthen our national economy by addressing high energy and healthcare, and addressing our trade enforcement problems with nations like China. For now, however, extending unemployment compensation to laid-off workers is an important investment in the future of our nation and one that is especially needed in Michigan.

Sincerely,



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

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