

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.

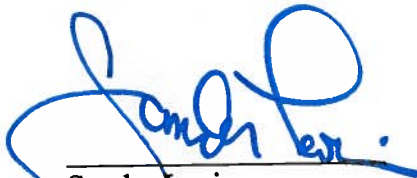
The Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program is scheduled to immediately and completely stop at the end of 2013, during the holiday season, with the last payable week ending on December 28th. All current EUC beneficiaries will lose their benefits, and individuals exhausting their limited state 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.

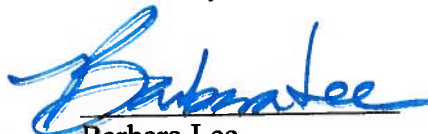
Even with the progress our economy has seen since the depths of the recession, there are still 1.3 million fewer jobs today than when the recession started six years ago. Additionally, approximately 4 million Americans are considered long-term unemployed, and have been looking for work for more than 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
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Gloria Negrete McLeod
Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress

Michael H. Michaud
Michael Michaud
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Charles Rangel
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress

George Miller
George Miller
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa
Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Jarice Schakowsky
Jarice Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Donna M. Christensen
Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress

Michael Honda
Michael Honda
Member of Congress

G. K. Butterfield
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Joe Crowley
Joe Crowley
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver
Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Carolyn Maloney
Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson
Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards
Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Ed Pastor
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Rubén Hinojosa
Rubén Hinojosa
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Ed Perlmutter
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Joe Courtney
Joe Courtney
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Anna Eshoo
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Member of Congress

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Robert Brady
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Karen Bass
Karen Bass
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Juan Vargas
Juan Vargas
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John P. Sarbanes
John P. Sarbanes
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William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas
Tony Cardenas
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Rosa L. DeLauro
Rosa L. DeLauro
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Dina Titus
Dina Titus
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Elijah E. Cummings
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Linda T. Sanchez
Linda T. Sanchez
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Xavier Becerra
Xavier Becerra
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Jared Huffman
Jared Huffman
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David N. Cicilline
David N. Cicilline
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Sheila Jackson Lee
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn
Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

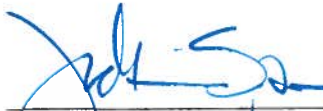
Bill Foster
Bill Foster
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone, Jr.
Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee
Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

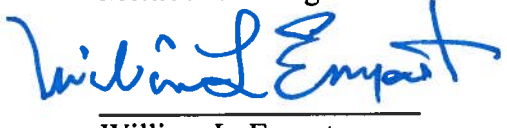

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

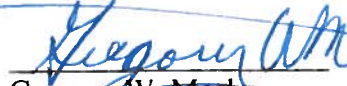

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Lois Capps
Member of Congress



William L. Enyart
Member of Congress

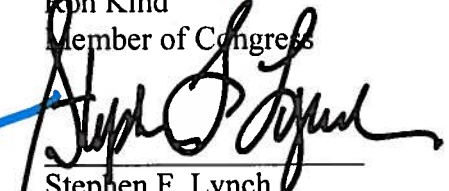

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress

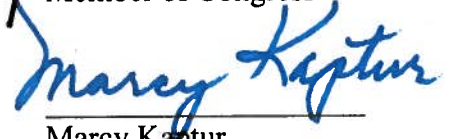

Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress


Paul Tonko
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

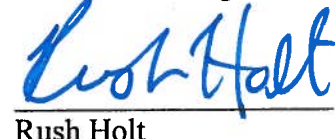

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

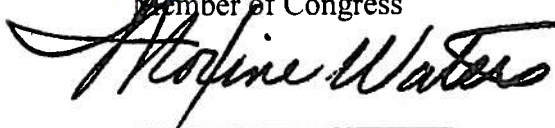

Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress

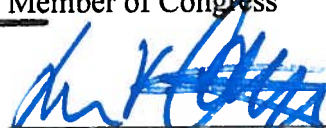

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

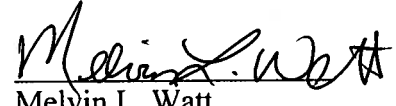

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

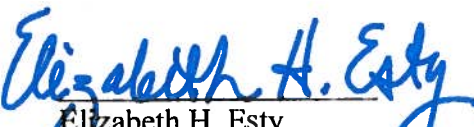

Rush Holt
Member of Congress


Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

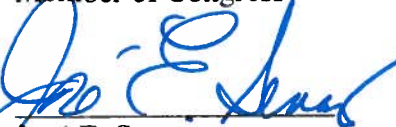

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

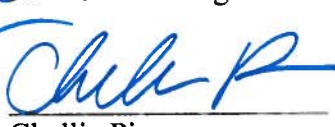

Steven A. Horsford
Member of Congress



Melvin L. Watt
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

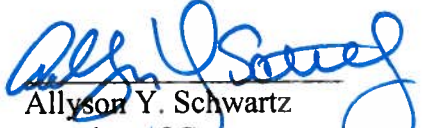

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress


James A. Himes
Member of Congress



Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress

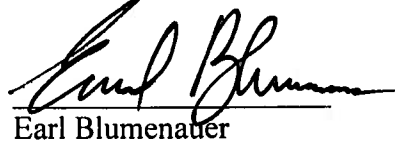

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

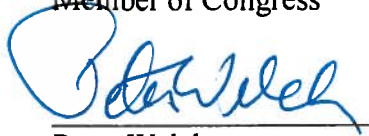

Nick J. Rahall
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

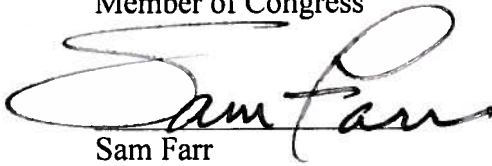

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

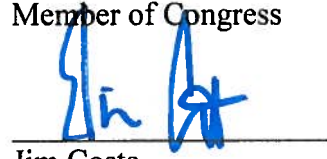

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress

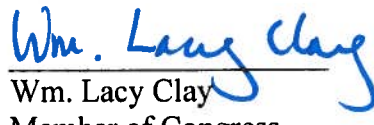

Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress

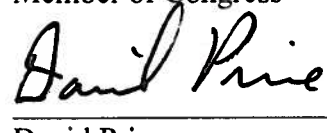

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress

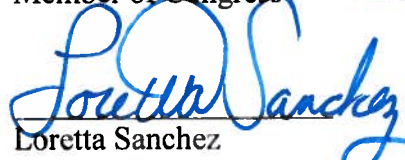

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress


Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

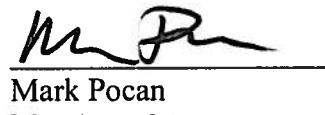

David Price
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress


Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

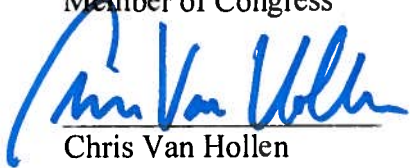

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

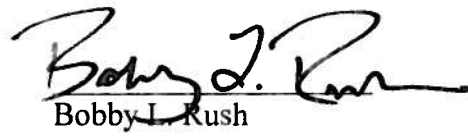

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

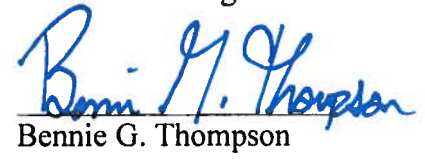

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

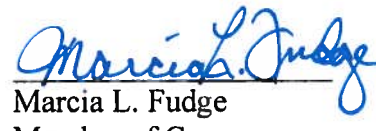

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress


Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

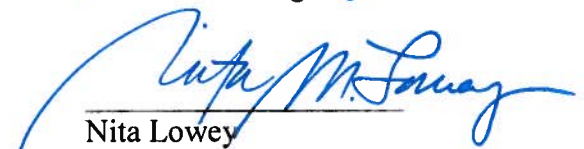

John Delaney
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress


Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

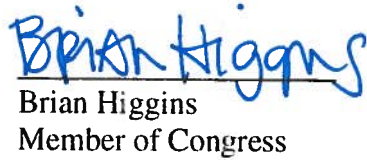

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress


Nita Lowey
Member of Congress


Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress


James Clyburn
Member of Congress

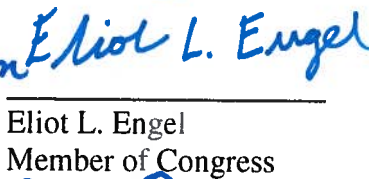

Al Green
Member of Congress

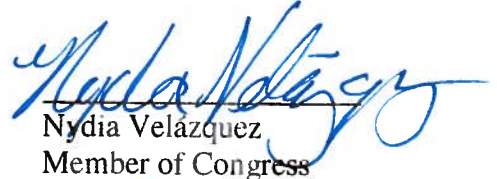

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

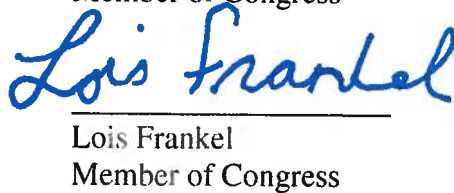

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

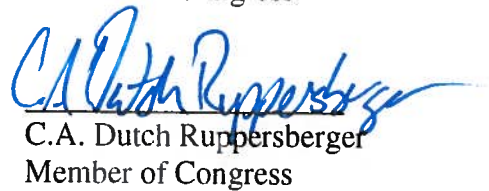

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

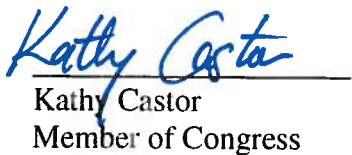

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

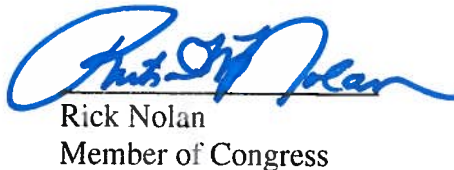

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

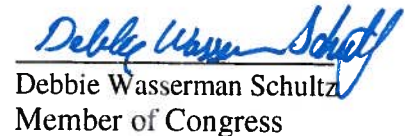

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

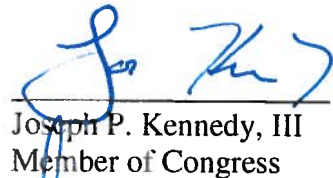

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress


C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

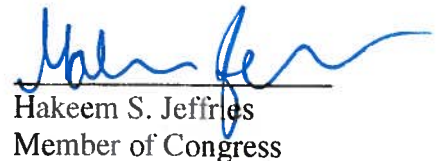

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

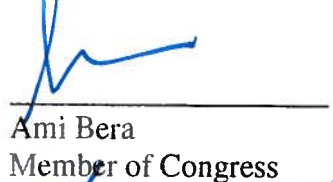

Rick Nolan
Member of Congress

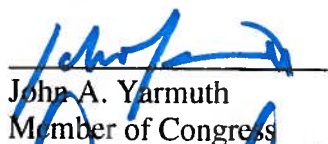

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

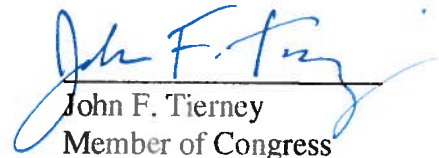

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

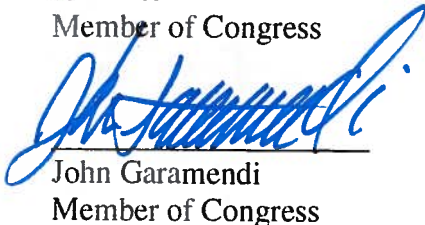

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

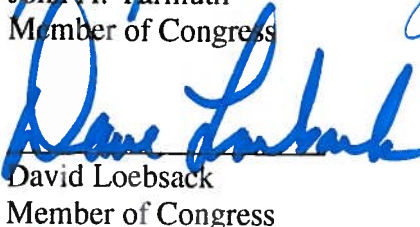

Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress

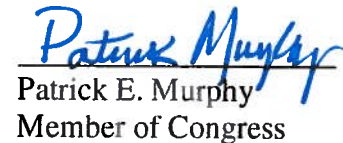

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

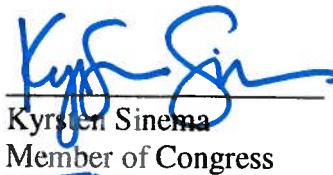

John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress

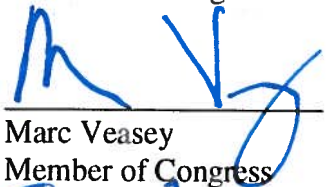

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress

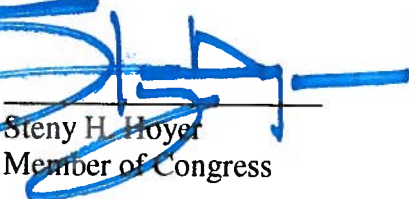

David Loeb sack
Member of Congress

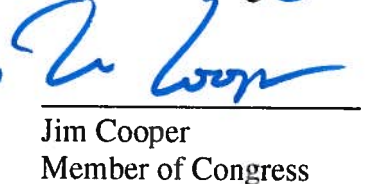

Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress

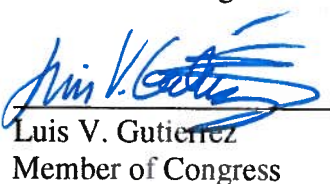

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress


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

Alice L. Hastings
Alice 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