

# Budget Experts Support Extending Unemployment Insurance

**Robert Bixby, President of the Concord Coalition, an organization dedicated to eliminating Federal budget deficits:**

“As a deficit hawk, I wouldn’t worry about extending unemployment benefits...It is not going to add to the long-term structural deficit, and it does address a serious need. I just feel like unemployment benefits wandered onto the wrong street corner at the wrong time, and now they are getting mugged.”

[\[Washington Post, 7/7/10\]](#)

**Maya MacGuineas, President of the Committee for Responsible Federal Budget:**

"Given the employment situation and the general bang for the buck you get from unemployment insurance, that's probably the most sensible of the stimulative policies to extend."

[\[Washington Post 11/06/09\]](#)

**Diane Lim Rogers, Economist at the Concord Coalition:**

“Hey, let’s get real: extended unemployment benefits are an effective form of stimulus spending, and although they do add to the short-term deficit, they are not part of the longer-term deficit problem. Nowhere in CBO’s report on the long-term budget outlook will you find different assumptions about unemployment benefits. It’s all about what we do with the Bush tax cuts and how well health reform will work. Let’s face it: those who use their “worry” about our longer-term fiscal outlook as a reason to oppose extended unemployment benefits don’t want to reduce the deficit as much as they want to get rid of unemployment benefits.”

[\[Washington Post, 7/7/10\]](#)

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**Dr. Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize winning economist, and former Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers:**

“I also explain why it would be short-sighted...if we were to give into deficit fetishism. We would be myopic in two senses. To focus on one side of the balance sheet, rather than both sides that asset spending can create is simply bad economics. These investments can yield returns far in excess of the cost to capital. Investments in jobs can even help reduce the deficit in the long run. Unemployed workers lose their job skills.” [[Testimony at Joint Economic Hearing on Post Recession Job Creation 12/10/09](#)]

**Ken Rogoff, National Debt Expert and Professor of Economics at Harvard University; Co-author of “This Time Is Different: Eight Centuries of Financial Folly” with Carmen Reinhart:**

“And it's hard to believe that that's really what's holding people back from getting [jobs], that they can collect a modest unemployment check...This isn't your normal recession, and we can't treat it this way...of the various stimulus programs that we're doing, I think the unemployment benefits is an important one, especially from our sense of fairness-that...There should be some social safety net. It's important to strengthen that and enhance it temporarily.” [[NPR 7/12/10](#)]