



May 19, 2010

**Preserve a Vital Safety Net for Laid-Off Workers and Promote Economic Growth:  
Support H.R. 4213, The Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010**

Dear Representative,

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States, we urge you to support H.R. 4213, The Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010, a bill that would provide funding for essential services for the most vulnerable Americans, while also boosting economic activity and creating jobs.

**Extension of Unemployment Insurance and COBRA Benefits**

The bill would continue the jobless aid provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) through the end of the year. Current extensions of these provisions expire June 2, 2010 for the unemployment programs and May 31, 2010 for COBRA.

Extending unemployment benefits will help the economy recover while providing badly needed assistance in today's historic economic crisis. As recently documented by the Congressional Budget Office, the extension of jobless aid also provides the most significant boost to the economy and job growth of any policy option being debated by Congress, responsible for creating or preserving 800,000 jobs this year alone. In addition to providing an urgent safety net for laid-off workers, the extension of unemployment benefits has a positive ripple effect on the economy at large because those dollars are quickly recycled through the economy. Economists estimate that for each dollar spent on unemployment benefits, this process generates \$1.63 in economic stimulus.

With well over six million long-term unemployed workers, the need for these benefits is great. Minorities and older Americans are more likely to be unemployed longer. In 2006, the average duration of joblessness for unemployed whites over age 16 was 15.6 weeks; for African Americans, it was 20.4 weeks; for Asians, 21.3 weeks. Women and men aged 55 to 64 remained jobless 22.2 weeks and 23.8 weeks, respectively, in 2006.

**TANF Emergency Fund**

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Fund, first funded in ARRA, provides funds to states to support a range of subsidized jobs for low-income families. The 35 states that are utilizing the program have plans to provide about 185,000 jobs by September 30, 2010, the current program deadline. Nearly all of these jobs will be eliminated if the program is not extended with additional funds. If the program is extended, even more jobs will be created.

**Federal Medical Assistance Percentage**

Like unemployment insurance/COBRA and the TANF Emergency Fund, the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) is temporary, emergency spending for job creation and combating the recession. FMAP received \$87 billion in ARRA funding and is set to expire December 31, 2010. This infusion of



federal funding is providing much-needed relief to states in order to meet the elevated demand for Medicaid services. Failure to add funding for FMAP could force states to make severe cuts in services to beneficiaries and in payments to Medicaid providers, or, if Medicaid is spared, to cut deeply into other state services. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimated that without an extension of state fiscal relief, state spending cuts could mean job losses of up to 900,000 in both the public and private sectors nationwide.

These temporary, emergency spending provisions of H.R. 4213 will help to alleviate hardships for those most vulnerable, and in so doing, will foster job creation and economic growth. We urge you to support the bill.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Corrine Yu, Senior Counsel, at 202-466-5670, or Nancy Zirkin at 202-263-2880.

Sincerely,



Wade Henderson  
President & CEO



Nancy Zirkin  
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