

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.

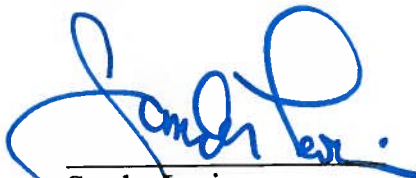
The Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program is scheduled to immediately and completely stop at the end of 2013, during the holiday season, with the last payable week ending on December 28th. All current EUC beneficiaries will lose their benefits, and individuals exhausting their limited state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

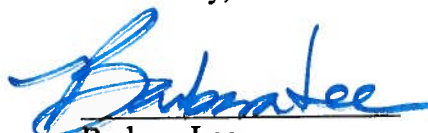
Even with the progress our economy has seen since the depths of the recession, there are still 1.3 million fewer jobs today than when the recession started six years ago. Additionally, approximately 4 million Americans are considered long-term unemployed, and have been looking for work for more than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




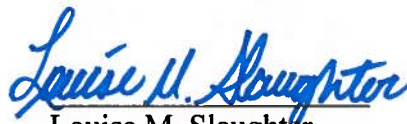
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

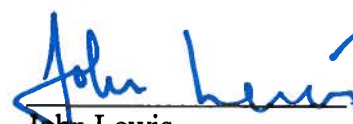

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress


Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

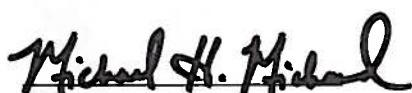

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
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Steve Cohen
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Gloria Negrete McLeod
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Michael Michaud
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Mike Thompson
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James P. McGovern
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Julia Brownley
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Charles Rangel
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George Miller
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

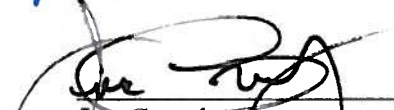

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress


Janice Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Donna M. Christensen
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Michael Honda
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
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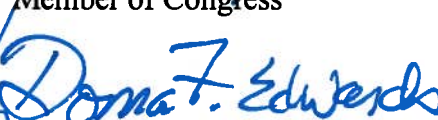

Joe Crowley
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Janice Hahn
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Bill Foster

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.

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Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis


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Member of Congress


John B. Larson


John B. Larson
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Dan Kildee

Dan Kildee
Member of Congress

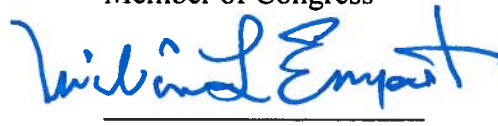

Jackie Speier
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Cedric L. Richmond
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Diana DeGette
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Lois Capps
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William L. Enyart
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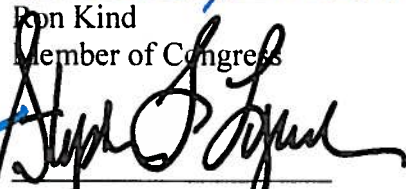

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
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Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

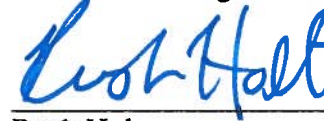

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

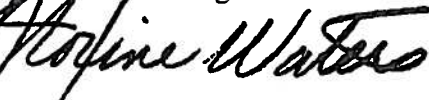

Gary C. Peters
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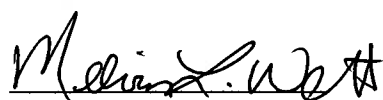

Peter A. DeFazio
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Steven A. Horsford
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Melvin L. Watt
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Mike Quigley
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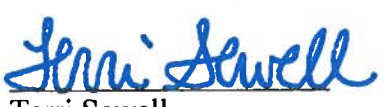

Allyson Y. Schwartz
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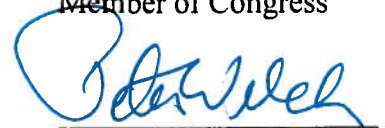

Nick J. Rahall
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

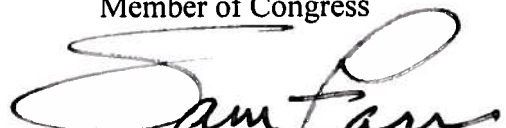

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell Jr.
Member of Congress

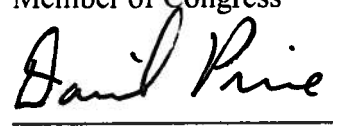

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress


Sam Farr
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress


Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

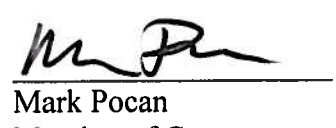

David Price
Member of Congress

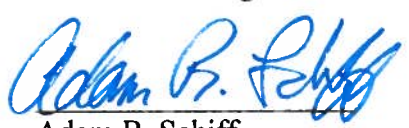

James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

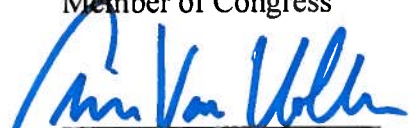

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

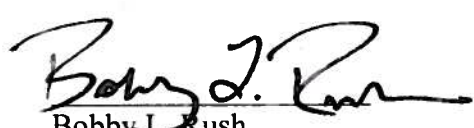

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

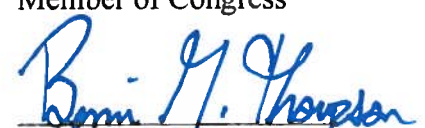

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

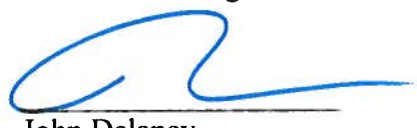

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

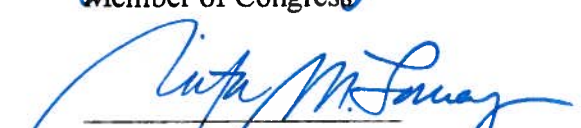

John Delaney
Member of Congress


Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

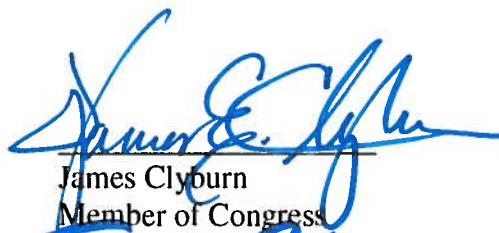

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

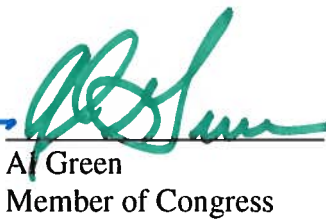

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress


Alan Grayson
Member of Congress


Nita Lowey
Member of Congress

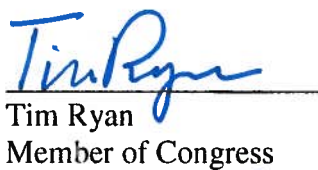

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress


James Clyburn
Member of Congress

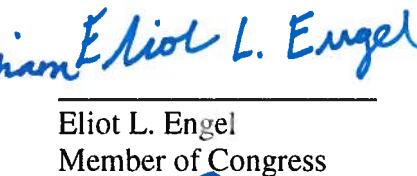

Al Green
Member of Congress

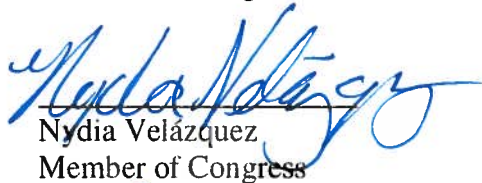

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress


Tim Bishop
Member of Congress

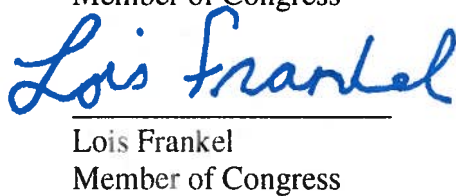

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

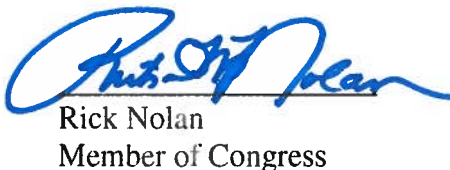

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress

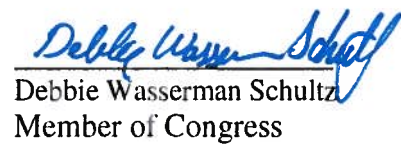

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

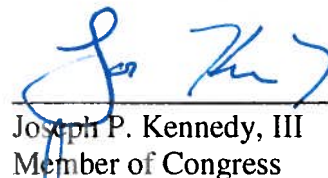

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress


C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

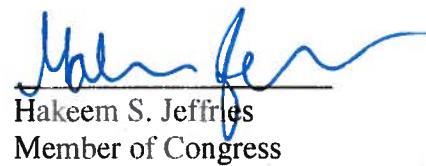

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

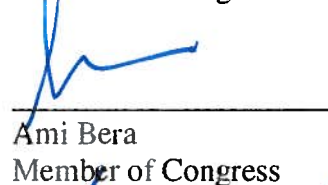

Rick Nolan
Member of Congress

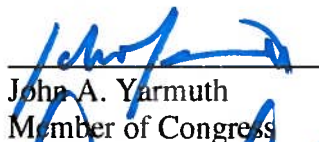

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

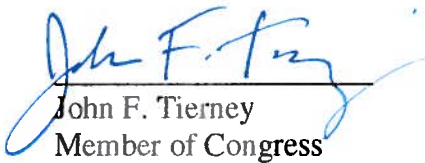

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

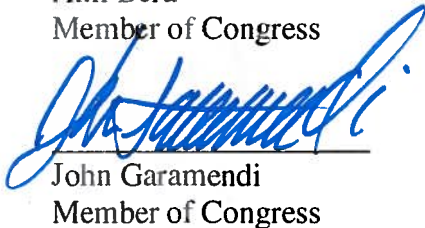

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

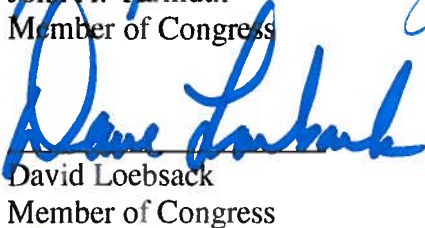

Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress

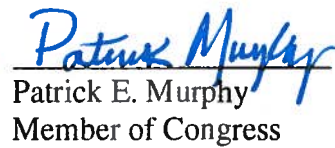

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

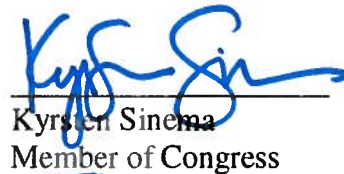

John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress

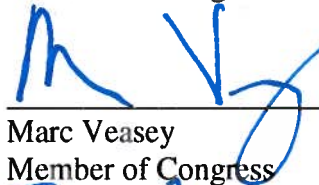

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress


John Garamendi
Member of Congress

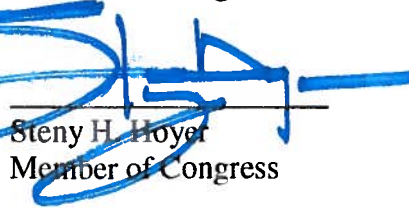

David Loebsack
Member of Congress

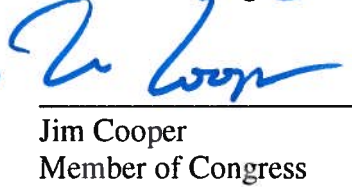

Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress

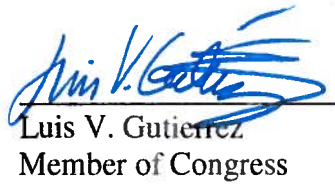

Kyrsten Sinema
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Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



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Jim Cooper
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Luis V. Gutierrez
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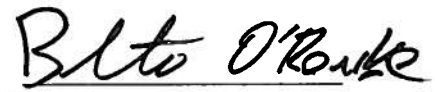

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress


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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Steve Israel
Member of Congress


Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress


Alcee L. Hastings
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Bruce Braley
Member of Congress


Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
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Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

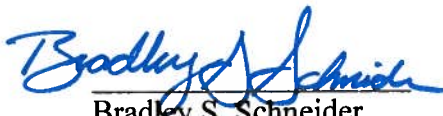

Rob Andrews
Member of Congress


Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress


Grace Meng
Member of Congress

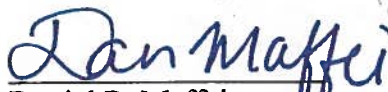

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress


Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

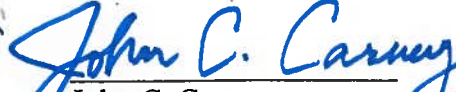

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress


Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

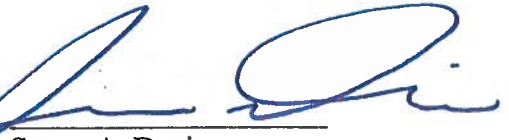

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



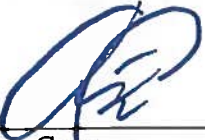
Daniel B. Maffei
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Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Joe Garcia
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



William L. Owens
Member of Congress



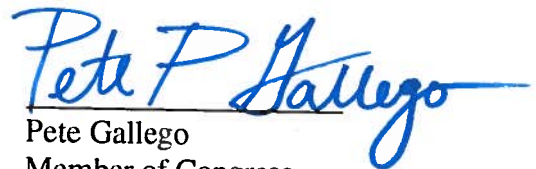
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



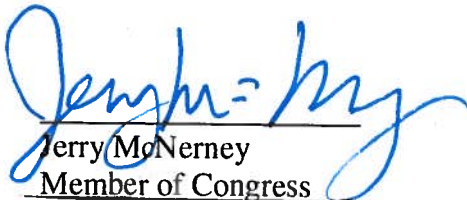
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Robin Kelly
Member of Congress



Pete Gallego
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Ron Barber
Member of Congress