

Temporary Extension of Unemployment Benefits in Supplemental Appropriations Package

- Based on legislation reported by the Committee on Ways and Means (HR 5749) and passed by the House on June 12, the proposal would provide up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in every State to workers exhausting regular unemployment compensation.
- The weekly benefit amount provided by the program would equal the amount received under regular unemployment compensation (the average UI benefit is \$292 a week). The terms and conditions that States impose for regular unemployment compensation also would apply to these extended benefits. In addition, a recipient would be required to have 20-weeks of full-time work or the equivalent in his/her base period.
- An individual's benefit year for regular compensation must have ended on or after May 1, 2007 in order to be eligible for extended benefits
 - If signed into law at the end of June, this provision generally would provide eligibility to jobless workers who exhausted regular UI benefits within the last 20 months.
- The extended benefits program would be in effect through March 2009 (any individual receiving extended benefits before the program terminates would receive his/her entire 13 weeks).
- All benefits and administrative costs would be paid out of the federal unemployment trust funds (which now have over \$39 billion in reserves). The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the bill would cost \$8.2 billion.
- Projections suggest that between 3.5 and 4 million workers would receive extended UI benefits under the bill.