



February 17, 2010

The Honorable Max Baucus, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance
Hart Senate Office Building – Room 511
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Washington, DC 20510

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Dear Senator Baucus,

As I write this letter nearly 15 million American's remain unemployed, and many of these individuals have only their unemployment check to stand between them and bankruptcy. As you are aware, several of the provisions aimed at providing this vital safety-net for America's unemployed are scheduled to end on February 28th. Among those programs are the Emergency Unemployment Compensation and Federal Additional Compensation programs, and the 100 percent funding of most Extended Benefits paid under the federal-state extended benefit program. IAWP serves as a professional organization representing the men and women who deliver these benefits. IAWP urges Congress to extend these programs.

We also want to urge Congress, as you construct an extension, to consider the stresses the unemployment insurance system is already experiencing. Due to a lack of administrative funding over the last decade the overwhelming majority of states still use outdated computer systems making complex changes (i.e. multi-tier programs and changes with complex triggers) extremely difficult to implement. States have done a yeomen job thus far, but we are concerned the system has been stretched to its limit. We encourage Congress to formulate an extension program that will not cause undue delays in benefit payments or extreme hardships on the state agencies who deliver these benefits.

Thank you in advance for taking action to extend these benefits without placing the system under any unnecessary stress.

Sincerely,

Daniel L. Hays
President

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