



January 8, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

We write to urge you to extend federal unemployment benefits for millions of Americans by extending the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program. As you know, 1.3 million jobless workers, including 20,000 recent military veterans, experienced the end of their benefits on December 28th, and nearly another 1.9 million will lose their unemployment benefits over the first half of this year. In the past, Congress has extended unemployment benefits during similar economic downturns. Failure to extend it now would only halt our economic recovery and undo the progress that we have made since the height of the recent downturn. In fact, inaction would reduce economic growth by an estimated \$38 billion and would eliminate approximately 310,000 jobs from the U.S. economy.

Congress should extend unemployment benefits, as many states continue to experience persistent levels of high unemployment. Unemployment insurance has been effective in providing stability to our states' economies during times of uncertainty and weakness. Our country's jobless population spends unemployment benefits on rent, groceries, and other key necessities for themselves and their families. Our businesses and local communities benefit from the increased

spending, and in turn, the EUC program helps to increase economic activity. Thus, not only does the EUC program benefit the long-term unemployed, but it also helps to inject revenue into our local economies, which saves and creates critically needed jobs throughout our economy. For this reason, economists widely recognize that government spending on unemployment insurance benefits is one of the most effective tools for increasing economic activity in a period of persistently high unemployment.

As the economy continues to recover, it remains difficult for long term unemployed workers to find jobs — the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that for every job opening, there are 2.9 unemployed workers to fill it. Therefore, we ask you to extend the EUC program and continue this important safety net for millions of unemployed workers and families.

Sincerely,



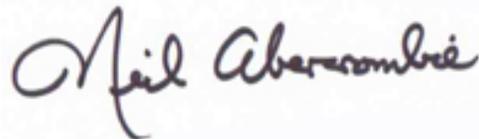
Governor Peter Shumlin
State of Vermont



Governor Jack Markell
State of Delaware



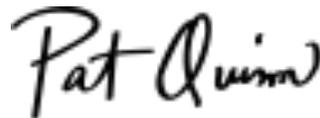
Governor Martin O'Malley
State of Maryland



Governor Neil Abercrombie
State of Hawaii



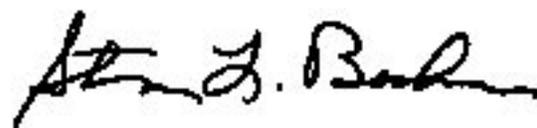
Governor Jerry Brown
State of California



Governor Pat Quinn
State of Illinois



Governor Daniel P. Malloy
State of Connecticut



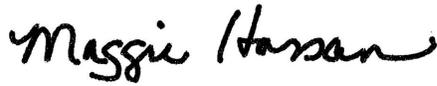
Governor Steve Beshear
Commonwealth of Kentucky



Governor Deval Patrick
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Governor of Puerto Rico
Alejandro Garcia Padilla



Governor Maggie Hassan
State of New Hampshire



Governor John deJongh
U.S. Virgin Islands



Governor John Kitzhaber
State of Oregon



Governor Jay Inslee
State of Washington