

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

### **13 WEEKS OF NEW BENEFITS PAID-FOR; FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE BIPARTISAN APPROACH KEY TO QUICK PASSAGE**

I AM PLEASED TO BE AN ORIGINAL COSPONSOR OF S. 2173; WHICH EXPANDS THE UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENDED BENEFITS PROGRAM PASSED BY CONGRESS AT THE END OF LAST SESSION.

THE LEGISLATION BEFORE US THIS AFTERNOON COMES TO THE RELIEF OF FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP BY ADDING ANOTHER 13 WEEKS OF EXTENDED BENEFITS. THIS MEANS THAT ELIGIBLE UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS ARE GUARANTEED AT LEAST ONE FULL YEAR OF BENEFITS AND COULD -- DEPENDING ON THEIR STATE'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE -- RECEIVE AS MUCH AS 59 WEEKS OF BENEFITS.

#### **BILL IS PAID FOR**

A KEY PART OF THIS LEGISLATION IS THAT BASED ON OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ESTIMATES -- IT IS PAID FOR -- SOMETHING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND MY COLLEAGUES ON THIS SIDE OF THE AISLE HAVE FOUGHT HARD FOR IN CONNECTION WITH ANY NEW PROGRAMS.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEFICIT, AND I AM GLAD THAT CONGRESS IS SHOWING SOME FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY.

JUST BEFORE LUNCH TODAY, I SPOKE TO THE AMERICAN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION WHICH REPRESENTS 3,600 DEBT COLLECTION SERVICE COMPANIES. I JOKED THAT I HOPED THAT THEY HADN'T COME TO WASHINGTON TO COLLECT ON THE FEDERAL DEFICIT.

#### **QUICK PASSAGE**

THE ADMINISTRATION STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS LEGISLATION. IT IS COSPONSORED BY THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEMBER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, BY THE DISTINGUISHED MAJORITY LEADER AND MYSELF, AND BY A NUMBER OF OTHER DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THIS BODY.

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT WE ARE TAKING QUICK ACTION AS THE ADMINISTRATION HAS REQUESTED. ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, NEARLY 600,000 UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WILL EXHAUST THEIR BENEFITS BY FEBRUARY 15 WITHOUT THE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS PROVIDED IN THIS LEGISLATION.

WHILE A DAY OR TWO OF DELAY MAY NOT IMPACT ANY OF US SITTING IN THIS CHAMBER, IT MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO THE UNEMPLOYED WHO ARE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW THEY WILL PAY THEIR BILLS AND PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE TOMORROW.

BY ACTING NOW, WE ARE ENSURING THAT THERE WILL BE NO GAP IN THESE BENEFITS, AND THEREFORE NO GAP IN THE ABILITY OF THE UNEMPLOYED TO SURVIVE THROUGH THESE TOUGH TIMES.

#### **BIPARTISAN COOPERATION**

FINALLY, LET ME JUST ADD THAT THE CHALLENGES FACING THIS CONGRESS ARE GREAT. THIS LEGISLATION IS A PRIME EXAMPLE THAT IF WE WORK TOGETHER ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WIN.

IF, HOWEVER, WE PURSUE POLITICS FOR OUR OWN SELFISH AGENDAS, EVERYONE LOSES.

THIS GREAT NATION OF STRENGTH AND SPIRIT IS COUNTING ON THE STRENGTH AND SPIRIT OF ITS REPRESENTATIVES.

LET'S NOT FORSAKE OUR DUTY TO THE GOOD CITIZENS WHO PUT US HERE.

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