

TAPE FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

AS CONGRESS GETS DOWN TO THE BUSINESS OF CONSIDERING THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET, WE ARE FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF THOSE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED EXHAUSTING THEIR STATE AND FEDERAL JOBLESS PAYMENTS. THIS IS OF GRAVE CONCERN HERE IN WEST VIRGINIA AS WE CONTINUE TO LEAD THE NATION IN UNEMPLOYMENT.

RECENTLY, I TOOK A STEP TO HELP THOSE UNEMPLOYED BY INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO EXTEND THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL COMPENSATION PROGRAM FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES EIGHT TO FOURTEEN WEEKS OF SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO HAVE EXHAUSTED 39 WEEKS OF OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL BENEFITS. THE CURRENT PROGRAM IS DUE TO EXPIRE ON MARCH 31 OF THIS YEAR.

FOR STATES WITH HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT SUCH AS OURS, ADDITIONAL FEDERAL BENEFITS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE LIVELIHOOD OF LAID-OFF WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AS THEY CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR EMPLOYMENT. ~~SHOULD WE ALLOW THIS PROGRAM TO EXPIRE, THEY WOULD BE FACED WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO GO ON WELFARE.~~

~~WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED.~~ I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

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