



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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February 26, 2010

The Honorable Jim Bunning
United States Senate
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bunning:

Facing an unemployment rate of 10.7 percent in Kentucky and 9.7 percent across the nation, I urge you to allow passage of H.R. 4691, a vital extension of unemployment benefits to 1.2 million Americans, including tens of thousands right here in Kentucky.

There are 119,230 Kentuckians currently receiving benefits through the federal extension program. Without a further extension, 14,206 claimants will exhaust all extension benefits within two weeks. By the end of March, a total of 22,797 will exhaust their benefits; by mid-April, 31,521 will exhaust their benefits; and by July 31, the remainder of those receiving extension benefits will exhaust them. Beyond the number of those receiving extension benefits, another 90,000 Kentuckians currently on unemployment insurance will not be eligible for the federal extension program at all.

These unemployed Kentuckians come from hard-working families that have struggled for months to find new employment in the greatest economic recession in our lifetime. They are mothers and fathers who are trying to put food on the table for their children and seniors who are trying to pay the rent.

In addition to the extension of unemployment benefits, this bill also includes important extensions of federal subsidies to help pay health premiums for those unemployed people who lost health insurance when they lost their jobs, current Medicare payment rates for doctors, flood insurance and small business loans.

I urge you to reverse your position on this bill and would welcome any opportunity to provide you with further information on its tremendous necessity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven L. Beshear".

Steven L. Beshear