
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8029

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Winsley, Spanel, Rasmussen, Kline, Doumit,
Franklin, B. Sheldon, Brown, Kohl-Welles, Murray and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/14/2004. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Trade.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, Over the past few years, the national economy has
10 struggled unsuccessfully to rebound from the recession, and a strong
11 and sustainable recovery remains elusive; and

12 WHEREAS, There are two million four hundred thousand fewer jobs
13 today than when the recession began; and

14 WHEREAS, In November 2003, long-term joblessness reached a twenty-
15 year high, and nearly one-fourth of the unemployed have been out of
16 work for at least half a year; and

17 WHEREAS, In November 2003, the nation's unemployment rate remained
18 at five and nine-tenths percent, and Washington's unemployment rate was
19 among the highest in the country at six and eight-tenths percent; and

1 WHEREAS, Congress and the President originally approved temporary
2 extended unemployment compensation to provide assistance to unemployed
3 workers who were unable to find new jobs before exhausting their
4 regular benefits, and to stimulate the economy by injecting dollars
5 directly into local communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Unemployed workers in most states could receive up to
7 thirteen weeks of federal temporary extended unemployment compensation;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Unemployed workers in states suffering from severe
10 economic distress such as Washington could receive up to twenty-six
11 weeks of federal temporary extended unemployment compensation; and

12 WHEREAS, Congress adjourned without providing for a further
13 extension of unemployment compensation benefits after December of 2003;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Across the nation, more than one million unemployed
16 workers are expected to exhaust their regular benefits in the first
17 quarter of 2004; and

18 WHEREAS, In Washington, more than twenty-five thousand unemployed
19 workers are expected to exhaust their regular benefits in the first
20 quarter of 2004; and

21 WHEREAS, These unemployed workers are left with few, if any, job
22 prospects or other means of assistance; and

23 WHEREAS, Federal temporary extended unemployment compensation
24 benefits helped these hard-working people and their families put food
25 on the table and pay their bills while they looked for work; and

26 WHEREAS, Federal temporary extended unemployment compensation
27 injected cash into troubled economies throughout the nation and in
28 Washington; and

29 WHEREAS, The economic and labor market conditions that warranted
30 federal temporary extended unemployment compensation still persist; and

31 WHEREAS, If federal temporary extended unemployment compensation
32 benefits are not extended, workers and their families will suffer
33 severe economic hardships and states such as Washington will be
34 deprived of this crucial economic boost;

35 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress
36 and the President extend and make retroactive the federal temporary
37 unemployment compensation program.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
2 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
3 States, the Secretary of the Department of Labor, the President of the
4 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
5 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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