



**Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.**

November 15, 2010

!!LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT!!

UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS FACE BLEAK HOLIDAYS AFTER NOVEMBER 30th IF CONGRESS FAILS TO CONTINUE FEDERAL JOBLESS BENEFITS

Issue: Congress returns from its extended mid-term election recess today, November 15th. If Members don't *reauthorize existing* unemployment insurance (UI) benefits by November 30th, approximately 2 million U.S. workers – in December alone – will prematurely lose this crucial lifeline in the middle of the holiday season!

Action Needed

- **Participate in a National Call-In Day on Tuesday, November 16th.** The toll-free number is **1-866-606-1189** and you'll be patched through to your Congressional members. Urge them to extend UI benefits through December 2011 in light of the slow economic recovery. [See attached **Talking Points** to assist you.]
- Sign a **PETITION TO CONGRESS** by logging on to a special UI initiative by the National Employment Law Project (NELP):
http://www.unemployedworkers.org/page/s/Sign_the_Petition_to_Congress
- Provide unemployed workers the opportunity to tell their **Personal Stories** by directing them to the following special project by the National Unemployment Law Project (NELP): <http://www.nelp.org/page/s/uistories>
- **Share** this Action Alert with your local community contacts to generate further calls, sign petitions and share personal stories of the unemployed.

Talking Points

- Unemployment benefits have kept 3.3 million Americans (including 1 million children) from falling into poverty in 2009 alone!
- The average unemployment check is only \$293 a week, covering less than half of the average family's expenses for food, housing and transportation!
- Hardworking Americans have paid into the UI system their entire working lives – it should be there when Americans need it!
- Jobs are so scarce that if someone could wave a magic wand and instantly fill every job opening with someone who is unemployed, 4 out of 5 of the unemployed would still be out of work!
- UI payments are good for business – they go right back into the economy, bolstering local businesses and saving jobs! The retail sector will take a major hit during this critical holiday season if Congress lets the UI program expire!