

City of Boston In City Council

Resolution in Support of Extension of Unemployment Benefits

By
Councilor Chuck Turner

- WHEREAS:** Senator Edward Kennedy was our tireless champion for unemployed workers and led the charge to ensure that laid off workers receive extended unemployment benefits while they search for a new job, and in his honor we must all do our part to take up the struggle; and
- WHEREAS:** 39,530 workers in Massachusetts are expected to collect their last unemployment check by the end of December; and
- WHEREAS:** unemployed workers across the state and especially in our communities of color struggle to find work and pay their bills in the midst of the most severe economic downturn since the Great Depression; and
- WHEREAS:** Massachusetts' working families are counting on the Massachusetts delegation to make this cause their top priority to prevent thousands of Massachusetts' workers from being left out in the cold without a paycheck or unemployment check to pay for their mortgages, their rent, and other bills and provide for their families; and
- WHEREAS:** extended unemployment benefits help struggling families stay afloat and are a direct stimulus to the local economy; and
- WHEREAS:** The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), championed by Senator Kennedy and passed in February 2009, provided over \$535 million in federal aid from February to July in direct relief to Massachusetts families who needed help and to communities hardest hit by the recession; and
- WHEREAS:** without immediate action to expand benefits for those who are running out of their only source of income, the city and the state will hit a severe setback on the road to recovery. Therefore Be It
- RESOLVED:** we, the members of the Boston City Council, urge the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation to lobby Congress to immediately pass federal unemployment extension legislation in September upon its return to Washington, D.C. including: 1) providing additional weeks of benefits to those exhausting unemployment in December in all states; 2) extending the existing federally-funded \$25 weekly benefits supplement and the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program well into 2010; and 3) simplifying the federal extensions by providing that all the benefits come from EUC rather than the Extended Benefit (EB) program which requires the state and local governments to pay the full costs for their workers.

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