



# Americans for Democratic Action

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*Where it's more than just politics. It's about taking a stand.*

October 13, 2009

Dear Senator

On behalf of the members of Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), I am writing to encourage your vote for H. R. 3548, a bill to extend unemployment insurance UI benefits for 14 weeks all states. The bill also extends benefits an additional 6 weeks in high-unemployment states (for a total of 20 weeks in those states with 8.5% unemployment or higher).

H. R. 3548 addresses the severity of joblessness in every state, as the jobless rate escalated to 9.8% in September and 1.3 million workers are expected to exhaust their benefits by the end of the year. As of September, over 400,000 workers exhausted their federal jobless benefits, and another 200,000 are expected to do so this month.

It is critical that the Senate pass the extension of unemployment benefits quickly; otherwise hundreds of thousands of Americans will lose their benefits. Unemployment benefits are critical not just to sustain families, but as a continuing economic stimulus since they are spent on groceries, housing, utilities, and other necessities. We must continue to build jobs and consumer confidence and resist government paralysis in order to avoid a double dip recession.

H. R. 3548 is paid for by extending a federal unemployment insurance surtax on employers that has been in place for the past 30 years. It extends the surtax for two years to cover the \$2.8 billion in total costs associated with the new extension benefits.

As our economy struggles to return to the dynamic and robust economy we can all enjoy, this needed, worthy and timely infusion of funds will help thousands of unemployed workers and simultaneously be a mini stimulus to our flagging economy.

I urge you to vote for H. R. 3548

Sincerely,

*Michael J. Wilson*

Michael J. Wilson

National Director

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*President Richard Parker \* Executive Committee Chair Allen Kukovich \* Counsel Jack Blum \* Treasurer Jim Clarke  
Secretary Maria Wilkinson \* National Director Michael J. Wilson*