



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Amid Dismal Economic Conditions in California and Across the Country, Lantos Advocates Further Extending Federal Unemployment Benefits

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo, San Francisco) today advocated extending the federal unemployment insurance program for people who are out of work and have exhausted their unemployment benefits.

“More than eight million people are out of work nationally, more than a million of them in California,” Lantos said. “And perhaps most disturbing of all, long-term unemployment is at the highest level in ten years. We cannot let the Bush Administration fail America’s workers twice over: If more people are out of work for longer periods, we must not deny them their unemployment benefits.”

Lantos joined ten other Democratic members of the House who represent the Bay Area in urging the Bush Administration to renew the social safety net of federal unemployment insurance as long as the period of high unemployment continues.

A just-released report commissioned by the Bay Area delegation shows 182,300 of the nation’s unemployed workers are in the Bay Area, 84,400 of whom rely on unemployment insurance benefits averaging \$248 per week. And if Republican leaders in Congress continue to block a benefits extension, by June an estimated 53,500 jobless people in the Bay Area will have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits.

“As a nation, we need to do more to help the unemployed and to create new jobs,” Lantos said. “We cannot ignore the needs of Americans who are unable to find work. And we won’t be fooled by overly optimistic observations that the economy is in a ‘jobless recovery.’ I call on the President to extend unemployment benefits to those who need them now.”

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