

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 24, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President;

We are writing to ask you to join with us to prevent the abrupt cutoff of unemployment benefits for millions of workers next week. The House passed legislation to extend benefits in May, but Senator McConnell has refused to act, and some officials have said you support ending this vital assistance.


Unemployment benefits are providing a lifeline for over 30 million American workers who lost their jobs or were furloughed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of those workers are seeing rising COVID-19 infection and death rates and additional public health closures at the same time as they are receiving notice that their federal unemployment benefits will end.

For millions of workers and families, unemployment benefits are the only reason they can pay the rent, keep the lights on, and put food on the table. In our home state of Massachusetts, workers are currently scheduled to lose half their benefits. In the United States as a whole, workers will lose even more – an average of 64 percent of the income that's keeping them afloat.


The effect of the benefit cutoff will be equally catastrophic for our economy, deepening the recession and impeding its ability to bounce back. Without income from unemployment benefits, landlords and banks will see a wave of defaults on rent and mortgages, American businesses will see a sharp drop in demand for goods and services, and market fears will likely do further damage to savings and retirement funds. That is why the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that Gross Domestic Product would be higher in 2020 if the benefits were extended than if they were cut off.

There is no time to waste. We urge you to join with us now to protect our workers and our economy.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress