

In tough economic times, Congress and the President have worked together to extend unemployment benefits when needed. The previous extensions of unemployment insurance during this current recession has helped many New Jersey residents keep a roof over their head and food on the table when times were tough. In this tight job market and with the economy just starting to show signs of recovery, there are still six unemployed workers for each job opening and more than five million people who have been unemployed for more than six months.

The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009, H.R. 3548, would extend an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who have exhausted their current benefits in states with unemployment rates above 8.5 percent. With New Jersey's unemployment rate at 9.4 percent, by the end of September it is estimated that 22,000 New Jerseyans will have exhausted their unemployment benefits and have nowhere else to turn. This bill will provide them with direct relief during a difficult time.

Our government must help those in need as they seek new work. Morally, it is the right thing to do and the economists tell us that unemployment benefits are one of the most cost-efficient and fast-acting forms of economic stimulus.

The bill does not add to the deficit, by offsetting its cost with a one year extension of an employment tax that has been in place for 30 years.

Once this bill is signed into law it is estimated that by December, this 13-week extension of unemployment would benefit 1 million Americans—including 42,000 New Jersey residents—who will be looking for work and have exhausted their existing unemployment benefits.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009, which will provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals in states with unemployment rates of 8.5 percent or higher. This bill provides a critical boost to the many Rhode Islanders, and Americans across the nation, who are struggling to find employment. In order to receive these benefits, workers must have lost a job through no fault of their own, be actively searching for a job, be able to work, and must have worked twenty weeks prior to being laid off. Only unemployed workers who become eligible for the additional weeks of benefits before January 1, 2010, will qualify for this extension.

I am encouraged by reports that our country's recession is easing, but that is little consolation to the many people still suffering in my home state. In Rhode Island, the unemployment rate has reached 12.8 percent, which is the third highest rate in the country. It is also estimated that nearly 4,500 Rhode Islanders will exhaust their benefits before the end of this year. With recent reports estimating that there are six job seekers for every job opening, Congress must act to help workers through this challenging time.

I understand the hardships Rhode Islanders are facing, and that is why rebuilding our economy is the top priority for me and this Congress. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has saved the jobs of teachers, police officers, and nurses across our state and has created jobs through new highway

and infrastructure projects, with more coming online in the next few months. I am also pleased to see that the programs we have passed are being turned into smart investments in our future, such as the creation of clean energy jobs in our state through weatherization and offshore wind development.

As the President has stated, it may take some time before we see significant improvements in our unemployment rate, but I am confident that the programs we are putting into place will yield results over the next several months, while the longer-term investments we're making will ensure that our workforce and our job market are stronger in the years to come. While unemployment benefits and stimulus programs help jumpstart our economy in the short term, Congress must also work to build a new foundation for a lasting recovery. That is why we are making much needed reforms to our health care and financial systems and investing in our education and workforce training systems.

As Members of Congress, we have the power to give hard-working Americans another chance to continue their job search and provide for their families. I encourage my colleagues to pass this bill to help those who are most vulnerable during these trying times.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation and thank Chairman McDERMOTT for his leadership on this bill. H.R. 3548 provides an extension of unemployment benefits for up to 13 weeks for Americans across the country in states with the highest unemployment rates.

As of August 2009, the unemployment rate in America is a staggering 9.7 percent. Jobs are continuing to be shipped overseas, with the manufacturing sector boasting the biggest losses. Over 216,000 jobs were lost just last month. Ohio is one of 15 states with an unemployment rate above the national average and the Economic Policy Institute is projecting that racial disparities in high unemployment states will continue to worsen in 2010.

In recent weeks, I have received numerous calls from constituents who have already run out of unemployment benefits or are on the verge of doing so. This legislation provides a critical, if temporary fix to their problems.

Twenty-nine states currently qualify for the 13 week unemployment extension under this legislation, with more states sure to follow suit. I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3548, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 324, SANTA CRUZ VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-263) on the resolution (H. Res. 760) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 324) to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 441, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2971, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3548, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on H.R. 2215 and House Concurrent Resolution 163 will resume later in the week.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

HONORING CATHOLIC SISTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 441, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 441, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 720]

YEAS—412

Ackerman
Aderholt

Adler (NJ)
Akin

Alexander
Altmire

Andrews	Dicks	Kosmas	Pitts	Schiff	Thompson (MS)	Boswell	Fudge	Manzullo
Arcuri	Dingell	Kratovil	Platts	Schmidt	Thompson (PA)	Boucher	Gallely	Marchant
Austria	Doggett	Kucinich	Poe (TX)	Schrader	Thornberry	Boustany	Garrett (NJ)	Markey (CO)
Baca	Donnelly (IN)	Lamborn	Polis (CO)	Schwartz	Tiahrt	Boyd	Giffords	Markey (MA)
Bachmann	Doyle	Lance	Pomeroy	Scott (GA)	Tiberi	Brady (PA)	Gingrey (GA)	Massa
Bachus	Dreier	Langevin	Posey	Scott (VA)	Tierney	Brady (TX)	Gohmert	Matheson
Baird	Driehaus	Larsen (WA)	Price (GA)	Sensenbrenner	Titus	Braley (IA)	Gonzalez	Matsui
Baldwin	Duncan	Larson (CT)	Price (NC)	Serrano	Tonko	Bright	Goodlatte	McCarthy (CA)
Barrow	Edwards (MD)	Latham	Putnam	Sessions	Towns	Brown (GA)	Gordon (TN)	McCarthy (NY)
Bartlett	Edwards (TX)	LaTourette	Quigley	Sestak	Tsogans	Brown (SC)	Granger	McCaul
Barton (TX)	Ehlers	Latta	Rahall	Shadegg	Turner	Brown, Corrine	Graves	McClintock
Bean	Ellison	Lee (CA)	Rangel	Shea-Porter	Upton	Brown-Waite,	Grayson	McCollum
Becerra	Ellsworth	Lee (NY)	Rehberg	Sherman	Van Hollen	Ginny	Green, Al	McCotter
Berkley	Emerson	Levin	Reichert	Shimkus	Velázquez	Buchanan	Green, Gene	McDermott
Berman	Engel	Lewis (CA)	Reyes	Shuler	Viscosky	Burgess	Griffith	McGovern
Berry	Eshoo	Lewis (GA)	Richardson	Shuster	Walden	Burton (IN)	Guthrie	McHenry
Biggert	Etheridge	Linder	Rodriguez	Simpson	Walz	Butterfield	Hall (NY)	McIntyre
Bilbray	Fallin	Lipinski	Roe (TN)	Sires	Wamp	Buyer	Hall (TX)	McKeon
Bilirakis	Farr	LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)	Skelton	Wasserman	Calvert	Halvorson	McMahon
Bishop (GA)	Fattah	Lofgren, Zoe	Rogers (KY)	Slaughter	Wasserman	Camp	Hare	McMorris
Bishop (NY)	Filner	Lowe	Rogers (MI)	Smith (NE)	Schultz	Campbell	Harman	Rodgers
Blackburn	Flake	Lucas	Rooney	Smith (NJ)	Waters	Cantor	Harper	McNerney
Blumenauer	Fleming	Luetkemeyer	Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (TX)	Watson	Cao	Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)
Blunt	Forbes	Lujan	Roskam	Smith (WA)	Watt	Capito	Heinrich	Melancon
Boccieri	Fortenberry	Lummis	Ross	Snyder	Waxman	Capps	Heller	Mica
Boehner	Foster	Lungren, Daniel	Rothman (NJ)	Souder	Weiner	Cardoza	Hensarling	Michaud
Bonner	Fox	E.	Roybal-Allard	Space	Welch	Carnahan	Herger	Miller (FL)
Bono Mack	Frank (MA)	Lynch	Royce	Speier	Westmoreland	Carson (IN)	Higgins	Miller (MI)
Boozman	Franks (AZ)	Mack	Ruppersberger	Spratt	Wexler	Carter	Hill	Miller (NC)
Boren	Frelinghuysen	Maffei	Ryan (OH)	Stark	Whitfield	Cassidy	Himes	Miller, Gary
Boswell	Fudge	Maloney	Ryan (WI)	Stearns	Wilson (OH)	Castle	Hinchev	Miller, George
Boucher	Gallely	Manzullo	Salazar	Stupak	Wilson (SC)	Castor (FL)	Hinojosa	Minnick
Boustany	Garrett (NJ)	Marchant	Sanchez, Linda	Sullivan	Wittman	Chaffetz	Hirono	Mitchell
Boyd	Giffords	Markey (CO)	T.	Sutton	Wolf	Chandler	Hodes	Mollohan
Brady (PA)	Gingrey (GA)	Markey (MA)	Sanchez, Loretta	Tanner	Woolsey	Childers	Hoekstra	Moore (KS)
Brady (TX)	Gohmert	Marshall	Sarbanes	Taylor	Yarmuth	Chu	Holden	Moore (WI)
Braley (IA)	Gonzalez	Massa	Scalise	Teague	Young (AK)	Clarke	Holt	Moran (KS)
Bright	Goodlatte	Matheson	Schakowsky	Terry	Young (FL)	Clay	Honda	Moran (VA)
Brown (GA)	Gordon (TN)	McCarthy (CA)	Schauer	Thompson (CA)		Cleaver	Hoyer	Murphy (NY)
Brown (SC)	Granger	McCaul				Clyburn	Hunter	Murphy, Patrick
Brown, Corrine	Graves	McCollum	Abercrombie	Grijalva	Meek (FL)	Coble	Inglis	Murphy, Tim
Brown-Waite,	Grayson	McClintock	Barrett (SC)	Gutierrez	Radanovich	Coffman (CO)	Inslee	Murtha
Ginny	Green, Al	McCollum	Bishop (UT)	Hastings (WA)	Rohrabacher	Cohen	Israel	Myrick
Buchanan	Green, Gene	McCotter	Capuano	Jackson (IL)	Rush	Cole	Issa	Nadler (NY)
Burgess	Griffith	McDermott	Carney	Kirk	Schock	Conaway	Jackson-Lee	Napolitano
Burton (IN)	Guthrie	McGovern	Delahunt	Loebsack	Wu	Connolly (VA)	(TX)	Neal (MA)
Butterfield	Hall (NY)	McHenry	Gerlach	Matsui		Conyers	Jenkins	Neugebauer
Buyer	Hall (TX)	McIntyre				Cooper	Johnson (GA)	Nunes
Calvert	Halvorson	McKeon				Costa	Johnson (IL)	Nye
Camp	Hare	McMahon				Costello	Johnson, E. B.	Oberstar
Campbell	Harman	McMorris				Courtney	Johnson, Sam	Obey
Cantor	Harper	Rodgers				Crenshaw	Jones	Olson
Cao	Hastings (FL)	McNerney				Crowley	Jordan (OH)	Olver
Capito	Heinrich	Meeks (NY)				Cuellar	Kagen	Ortiz
Capps	Heller	Melancon				Culberson	Kanjorski	Pallone
Cardoza	Hensarling	Mica				Cummings	Kaptur	Pascrell
Carnahan	Herger	Michaud				Dahlkemper	Kennedy	Pastor (AZ)
Carson (IN)	Herseht Sandlin	Miller (FL)				Davis (AL)	Kildee	Paul
Carter	Higgins	Miller (MI)				Davis (CA)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Paulsen
Cassidy	Hill	Miller (NC)				Davis (IL)	Kilroy	Payne
Castle	Himes	Miller, Gary				Davis (KY)	Kind	Pence
Castor (FL)	Hinchev	Miller, George				Davis (TN)	King (IA)	Perlmutter
Chaffetz	Hinojosa	Minnick				Deal (GA)	King (NY)	Perriello
Chandler	Hirono	Mitchell				DeFazio	Kingston	Peters
Childers	Hodes	Mollohan				DeGette	Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Peterson
Chu	Hoekstra	Moore (KS)				DeLauro	Kissell	Petri
Clarke	Holden	Moore (WI)				Dent	Klein (FL)	Pingree (ME)
Clay	Holt	Moran (KS)				Diaz-Balart, L.	Kline (MN)	Pitts
Cleaver	Honda	Moran (VA)				Diaz-Balart, M.	Kosmas	Platts
Clyburn	Hoyer	Murphy (CT)				Dicks	Kratovil	Poe (TX)
Coble	Hunter	Murphy (NY)				Dingell	Kucinich	Polis (CO)
Coffman (CO)	Inglis	Murphy, Patrick				Doggett	Lamborn	Pomeroy
Cohen	Inslee	Murphy, Tim				Donnelly (IN)	Lance	Posey
Cole	Israel	Murtha				Doyle	Langevin	Price (GA)
Conaway	Issa	Myrick				Dreier	Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)
Connolly (VA)	Jackson-Lee	Nadler (NY)				Driehaus	Larson (CT)	Putnam
Conyers	(TX)	Napolitano				Duncan	Latham	Quigley
Cooper	Jenkins	Neal (MA)				Edwards (MD)	LaTourette	Rahall
Costa	Johnson (GA)	Neugebauer				Edwards (TX)	Latta	Rangel
Costello	Johnson (IL)	Nunes				Ehlers	Lee (CA)	Rehberg
Courtney	Johnson, E. B.	Nye				Ellison	Lee (NY)	Reichert
Crenshaw	Johnson, Sam	Oberstar				Ellsworth	Levin	Reyes
Crowley	Jones	Obey				Emerson	Lewis (CA)	Richardson
Cuellar	Jordan (OH)	Olson				Engel	Lewis (GA)	Rodriguez
Culberson	Kagen	Olver				Eshoo	Linder	Roe (TN)
Cummings	Kanjorski	Ortiz				Etheridge	Lipinski	Rogers (AL)
Dahlkemper	Kaptur	Pallone				Fallin	LoBiondo	Rogers (KY)
Davis (AL)	Kennedy	Pascrell	Ackerman	Baird	Bilirakis	Farr	Lofgren, Zoe	Rogers (MI)
Davis (CA)	Kildee	Pastor (AZ)	Aderholt	Baldwin	Bishop (GA)	Fattah	Lowe	Rooney
Davis (IL)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Paul	Adler (NJ)	Barrow	Bishop (NY)	Filner	Lucas	Ros-Lehtinen
Davis (KY)	Kilroy	Paulsen	Akin	Bartlett	Blackburn	Flake	Luetkemeyer	Roskam
Davis (TN)	Kind	Payne	Alexander	Bartlett	Blumenauer	Fleming	Lujan	Ross
Deal (GA)	King (IA)	Pence	Altmire	Barton (TX)	Blunt	Forbes	Lummis	Rothman (NJ)
DeFazio	King (NY)	Perlmutter	Andrews	Bean	Blunt	Fortenberry	Lungren, Daniel	Roybal-Allard
DeGette	Kingston	Perriello	Arcuri	Becerra	Boccieri	Foster	E.	Royce
DeLauro	Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Peters	Austria	Berkley	Bonner	Fox	Lynch	Ruppersberger
Dent	Kissell	Peterson	Baca	Berman	Bono Mack	Frank (MA)	Mack	Ryan (OH)
Diaz-Balart, L.	Klein (FL)	Petri	Bachus	Berry	Boozman	Franks (AZ)	Maffei	Ryan (WI)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kline (MN)	Pingree (ME)		Biggert	Boren	Frelinghuysen	Maloney	Salazar

NOT VOTING—20

□ 1856

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2971, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2971.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 721]

YEAS—411