

California Employment Development Department—EDD, an estimated 170,000 Californians will exhaust their benefits by the end of 2009 if Congress does not act.

Not only are more workers losing their jobs, but it continues to be more difficult for the unemployed to find work again. The number of Americans who have been jobless for 6 months or longer has reached a record 5.4 million.

America has faced tough economic times before, including four periods of recession since 1980. During all of these recessions we see a disturbing pattern: laid-off workers exhausting their unemployment benefits. By the year's end, 1.3 million people across the nation will lose their unemployment insurance benefits, and 7,000 Americans are running out of benefits on a daily basis.

These are more than just statistics or numbers on a page. Every percentage, or data point, tells the story of another family impacted by downsizing, a factory shutting down, or a local small business forced to close its doors.

The numbers don't tell the full story of the pain, anxiety, and challenges out-of-work Americans are facing. Here are some personal examples from Californians who have written to my office.

A former Chemist from Solana Beach, California wrote:

I have a Masters in Chemistry in drug discovery and have worked for 15 years in this manner. And though I apply almost every day to any and all jobs I might be a candidate or hired (including entry level positions in and out of my field, waiter, grocery store, fast food, hardware store, etc) I have only had two interviews in the last 3 months and worked 2 weeks as a temp. No one wants to hire a Masters in Science for an \$8 per hour job even less in my traditional career. Please vote yes to extend unemployment insurance.

A single mother from Rio Dell, California wrote:

Please, PLEASE do what you can to help with the Federal extension for unemployment benefits. I will receive my final check in a matter of days. I am a single mother who is barely surviving and fear losing my place to live. I have already received one eviction notice from my landlord due to paying my rent late. I fear I will lose parental custody if I can't keep a roof over our heads. I have carefully documented my work search, but the hope of finding employment is dwindling along with my hope of providing the most basic necessities such as water, heat, and shelter as winter approaches. I live in Rio Dell where the base rate for water and sewer was just raised to \$90 per month. I'm now a month behind. I don't have a spouse or family to help me. I don't even have a car anymore. I know I'm not the only one in this position, but it is of little consolation. So please help. The farther a person gets down, the harder the climb back up. We are in a devastating situation that needs immediate attention and reparation. I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration."

A former Postal Service employee from Grass Valley, California wrote:

Dear Ms. Feinstein, I am writing regarding the unemployment extension. I am a single mother struggling to keep my daughter clean, fed and in school. I was laid-off from the US Postal Service and have been des-

perately looking for work with no luck. Please urge your colleagues to pass this legislation as soon as possible and then work on possible inequities between the states. Thank you very much for your time.

These are only a handful of the nearly 2,000 letters my office has received. It breaks my heart to read such stories, and I am sure that many of my colleagues are hearing from constituents facing the same tough circumstances.

The situation for those in high unemployment states, such as California, is urgent, and, it is not just about preserving a social safety net or helping those who have paid into the system while they were employed. The unemployment crisis feeds the foreclosure crisis which leads to continued instability in the housing market which was the catalyst for the economic downturn in the first place. Put another way, the longer this legislation is delayed, the longer our economic recovery is delayed.

This extension is a targeted action that will quickly put money into the hands of those who need it most, and are most likely to spend it immediately on everyday necessities. According to Mark Zandi, chief economist of Moody's Economy.com, every dollar spent on unemployment benefits generates a return of \$1.64. Given the gravity of the unemployment situation, we have an obligation to take responsible action. There is no time for further delay, or political gamesmanship.

Some will argue that we do not need to extend benefits again, but with the increasing unemployment rate, more job losses, and the jobless staying unemployed for longer periods, American families need a break. We must address the underlying causes of the economic instability facing our Nation. More incentives are needed to ease the flow of credit to businesses and consumers. Special attention must be given to the small businesses that in many communities are the primary engine for job creation and economic development. But, the choice before us today with this legislation is clear.

We should pass this legislation now.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to provide immediate assistance to out-of-work Americans and aid our Nation's economic recovery.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNET

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of an event that is referred to as the "birthday" of the Internet.

On October 29, 1969, Dr. Leonard Kleinrock of the University of California, Los Angeles, and his team successfully transmitted the first message to their counterparts at Stanford University, led by Dr. Douglas Engelbart, via a network system that was the predecessor of today's Internet.

I wonder if Drs. Kleinrock and Engelbart ever imagined the full impact and transformative nature of their experiment, not only on California and the United States, but also the world?

From those original tubes between UCLA and Stanford, the Internet has grown into a global network, facilitating important communication, commerce and services around the world. The Internet allows scientists to share research and findings. Consumers can shop almost anywhere in the world via the Internet and have their purchases delivered to their doorstep. Government services, from emergency information to registration of motor vehicles, can be accessed through the Internet.

The Internet has also been an important economic engine for our country, and I am proud that my state of California has been home to many innovators, such as Google and eBay, who transformed ideas into successful multinational businesses.

This anniversary also serves to remind us of the importance of collaborative research efforts between our government and universities, like the UCLA and Stanford. The first network system used by Drs. Kleinrock and Engelbart, called ARPANET, was developed through funding and collaboration between the universities and the Department of Defense.

Today, we must remember that universities and their researchers remain a vital resource in facing and solving the challenges of the future.

I want to close by congratulating the UCLA, Stanford University, and Drs. Kleinrock and Engelbart, for their hard work and contributions to the development of the Internet over the years. Forty years after that first successful message, the Internet continues to transform our lives and the world.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CLIFFORD HANSEN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the passing of Clifford P. Hansen, a former Republican colleague of mine in the U.S. Senate and a devoted public servant whose contributions to this august body and to his home State of Wyoming will not soon be forgotten.

Clifford Hansen, who was the Nation's oldest living former Senator until his passing this week at age 97, loomed as large on the Wyoming political landscape as his beloved Grand Teton do on the natural one. This one-time Governor of Wyoming and two-term U.S. Senator leaves an impressive legacy of legislative achievement.

Clifford was born in Zenith, a town so small that it no longer appears on

State road maps. But growing up in Jackson, Clifford demonstrated the abilities and qualities needed to be successful in a wide variety of pursuits and political endeavors. After earning a degree in agriculture from the University of Wyoming, he rose quickly through the ranks, serving as a trustee of his alma mater, a Teton County commissioner, and later, in the mid-1960s, as Governor of Wyoming.

As Governor, Clifford Hansen brought an end to laws banning miscegenation, boosted the minimum wage, and secured higher retirement pay for State workers, among many other things. He also increased fair employment practices and secured more financial assistance for public schools and higher education. He then served two terms in the U.S. Senate and compiled an equally impressive list of accomplishments there.

I had the privilege of meeting Clifford Hansen in 1977, when I came to Washington as a wide-eyed freshman Senator. I will never forget the warmth and kindness Senator Clifford showed me, helping me get acclimated to my new surroundings and responsibilities. He was a conservative's conservative—a public servant of rock-solid integrity and unwavering devotion who believed in the time-honored principles of fiscal responsibility and less government. He was just as devoted to his beloved wife of more than 75 years, Martha, and their two children, Mary and Peter.

One of Senator Hansen's many gifts was his human touch. He always treated everyone the same, no matter what their station in life—with a warm smile, a hearty handshake, and unfeigned respect. No wonder he was so beloved by so many, everyone from Senate colleagues and staff to custodial and cafeteria workers.

More than three decades after coming to Washington, I am still privileged to serve in the Senate. And even though Clifford Hansen retired from the Senate in 1978, the years have not dimmed my memories of him and the high esteem with which I hold him. I cherish his memory and honor his service. And my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time are with his beloved Martha and other family members and devoted friends.

He will be missed.

NATIONAL NUCLEAR PROGRAM WORKERS DAY

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to honor nuclear weapons program workers and uranium miners, millers and haulers. Tomorrow, October 30, 2009, has been designated by Congress as a national day of remembrance for these workers and their families.

During the Cold War, these men and women served the United States by working in the Department of Energy's nuclear plants, exposing themselves to hazardous materials. As a result of this exposure, many developed illnesses and sacrificed their well-being for the sake of our Cold War victory.

This day of remembrance is particularly important to Kentuckians, because of men and women who have worked—and still work—for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Paducah, KY, since 1952. During the Cold War, this plant enriched the uranium for the weapons that kept America safe. Back then, this plant provided jobs to a small town and helped Paducah grow. What these workers did not necessarily know then was that they were not just going to work for a paycheck, but they were sacrificing themselves to protect our national security. Now, during a time of high unemployment, the plant continues to provide jobs by cleaning up the nuclear waste of the Cold War era.

Our Nation's nuclear workers have bravely served our country at a time when we needed them most and they deserve to be honored. Today, I, alongside the Nation, recognize these fine men and women for the sacrifices they have made.

AUTISM

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following op-ed article written by Doug Flutie and printed in the Boston Globe on October 17, 2009, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Massachusetts may have the best health care in the country, but it doesn't cover the treatment for the fastest-growing health threat to children—autism. Autism affects brain function and impairs communication, social interaction, and sensory modulation skills. The most recent statistics show that 1 in 91 children has autism, with the incidence four times as high in boys. More than 500 babies born this year in Massachusetts will soon be diagnosed with autism. What their parents will learn first—what my wife, Laurie, and I have learned from our son Dougie—is that while the hopes and dreams for their child may change, they will also intensify. Parents will learn that, with early intervention, children with autism can make significant strides—a fact backed up by extensive studies. They'll find that their pediatricians and neurologists will prescribe intense one-on-one speech, occupational, physical, and behavioral therapies. And then they'll be dismayed to discover that, though they've always paid their health care premiums, their health plans will not cover these services.

Why don't health plans cover treatments for the fastest-growing health threat to children? There is a contradiction between the role of schools versus that of medicine and health plans. Federal law stipulates that schools provide services necessary to allow all children to "access the curriculum." While critical to helping children with autism excel in the classroom, this in no way replaces their need for therapy to improve long-term brain functioning—not only to get through an average day, but to lay the foundation for the rest of their lives. School superintendents are powerful in asking health plans to step up to ensure that children with autism, like all others, are sent to school ready to learn. They expect health plans to provide glasses to students with poor eyesight, or even chemotherapy to children with cancer, so they have every right to expect

that children with autism will receive out-of-school autism therapy. Foundations like The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism and Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts work hard to fill the gaps in services and opportunities for children with autism. We also work to make up for the absence of the lead player in supporting the treatment of any medical condition: health plans.

In the health plans' absence, parents are left to pay privately or see their children go without autism therapies.

Those of us who can afford it (comfortably or through extreme means) see the incredible difference these services make in our children's ability to communicate, learn, function as part of the family and the community, and simply stay safe.

Those who can't afford it face the pain of being unable to give their child services proven to radically improve their developmental outlook.

Autism coverage isn't just the right thing; it's the financially smart thing. This coverage will cost just \$2.28 per member per month. Alternatively, the average lifetime cost for an adult with autism is estimated at \$3.2 million. Research shows that with effective early intensive intervention up to 47 percent of individuals can lead independent lives without state-funded supports. Additionally, they will each make an estimated \$1.7 million contribution as taxpayers, bringing the actual savings of autism coverage per person to \$4.9 million. While not all individuals will achieve this outcome, even moderate gains result in significant savings to taxpayers.

The Legislature is considering a bill that requires health plans to treat autism as a medical condition and pay for its treatments. Fifteen states have already passed similar legislation. This state needs to join them in ending insurance discrimination against people with autism.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MICDS CELEBRATION

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on November 3, 2009, three former Senate colleagues will be honored in a special ceremony at Mary Institute and Saint Louis Country Day School, MICDS, in St. Louis, MO. Former Senators Jack Danforth, Tom Eagleton, and Pete Wilson will be celebrated in a bronze bas relief by artist Harry Weber.

When the three distinguished U.S. Senators served together from 1983 to 1987, it marked the first time in history that three Members of the Senate serving simultaneously were graduates of the same secondary school, at that time Saint Louis Country Day School. They are being honored as part of the School's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Please join me in congratulating my three Senate colleagues and MICDS on 150 years of shaping generations of leaders and preparing their students for lives of purpose and service.●

TRIBUTE TO ANN HIGDON

● Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Ms. Ann Higdon of Dayton, OH, who was recently awarded The Purpose Prize, sponsored by Civic Ventures, The Atlantic Philanthropies, and the John Templeton Foundation.