



Press statement

For immediate release
January 24, 2012

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policymattersohio.org/benefits-statement-jan2012

Extended Benefits approval a good first step

Now Congress must act to extend emergency jobless benefits

Today, the Ohio House voted to extend unemployment benefits (HB 337) for some 20,000 Ohioans through a joint federal-state program that had been slated to end January 28 in Ohio. Earlier this month, the Ohio Senate approved the extension. Ohio Gov. John Kasich is expected to sign the bill into law.

“Extending these benefits for unemployed Ohioans is an important, common-sense move that brings already available federal funds to Ohio,” said Zach Schiller, Policy Matters research director and author of an earlier release calling for the extension. (See policymattersohio.org/extended-benefits-jan2012.)

But action is still needed at the federal level so that U.S. support for longer-term unemployment benefits continues. In addition to the Extended Benefits program, this includes another initiative, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, which covers 80,000 Ohioans and last year brought more than \$1.38 billion to the state.

“Congress should extend support for long-term jobless,” said Schiller. “Not only would it help struggling Ohio families, it would provide a significant boost to the state’s economy.”

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