

## **BY THE NUMBERS:** **AMERICANS IMPACTED BY GOP OBSTRUCTION**

### *Senate Republicans Block Help For Struggling Americans*

*“Senate Republicans say they are blocking this legislation because it would add a fraction of a percent to the deficit. But we didn’t hear those concerns when they borrowed billions give debt-financed tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. Instead, they are erecting their fiscal discipline talking points on the backs of people who have lost their jobs in the Great Recession.” – House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (MD), 2/26/10*

Last week, by a unanimous vote, bipartisan Members of the House passed emergency legislation to extend several important programs that were set to expire this past weekend, including: unemployment benefits; COBRA, which provides health insurance to the unemployed; the highway bill; satellite TV; cuts to Medicare physician payments; flood insurance; and small business loan guarantees.

When the Senate attempted to pass this package of legislation on Thursday and again on Friday, Sen. Jim Bunning (R-KY) blocked passage of these extensions, despite the serious consequences for families across America.

- **1.2 MILLION:** Nearly 1.2 million jobless workers, including more than 14,000 in Kentucky, will become ineligible for federal unemployment benefits in March when the extended unemployment insurance program expires.
- **90 THOUSAND:** Letting the highway program lapse could put 90,000 jobs at risk in March – a critical time at the start of construction season – as bills submitted by states or local transit agencies for highway and transit projects would go unpaid starting this morning.
- **2 MILLION:** Up to 2 million families could lose their access to broadcast television signals.
- **47 MILLION:** Potentially limits access to their doctor for some of the 47 million Americans enrolled in Medicare, due to the cut in Medicare physician payments.

### **Media, Experts Denounce GOP Tactics**

#### **Houston Chronicle: Texans to Lose Jobless Aid Because Of Kentucky Republican's Tactic**

“Texans who have been out of work for extended periods of time will lose their jobless aid and COBRA health-care benefits for unemployed workers — until and unless Republican leaders convince the lame duck from the Blue Grass State to reverse his position.” [3/01/10]

#### **New York Times: Clueless in Kentucky**

“Kentucky has lost about 60,000 jobs since the end of 2008. In December, its unemployment rate stood at 10.7 percent, the highest since 1983. So what exactly is going on in the minds of Kentucky’s two Republican senators, Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning?... It should be a no-brainer to extend unemployment insurance when around 1 out of every 10 workers is unemployed. Standard unemployment benefits end at 26 weeks, yet 6.3 million workers have been out of work for more than 27 weeks. Congress has provided a series of extensions, and without another one, 400,000 people will lose their benefits in a matter of weeks.” [2/27/10]

#### **Department of Transportation: USDOT Furloughs to Shut Down Critical Construction Projects**

“The Department of Transportation will furlough nearly 2,000 employees without pay Monday, temporarily shutting down highway reimbursements to states worth hundreds of millions of dollars,

national anti-drunk driving efforts, and multi-million dollar construction projects across the country. ‘As American families are struggling in tough economic times, I am keenly disappointed that political games are putting a stop to important construction projects around the country,’ said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.” [\[3/01/10\]](#)

**American Medical Association: Senate Inaction on Medicare Hurts Seniors, Military and Boomers**

“‘Our message to the U.S. Senate is stop playing games with Medicare patients and the physicians who care for them,’ said AMA President J. James Rohack, M.D. ‘It is shocking that the Senate would abandon our most vulnerable patients, making them the collateral damage of their procedural games.’” [\[2/26/10\]](#)