

July 22, 2010

Washington, DC – Today, Rep. Ben Ray Luján voted to extend unemployment benefits for millions of Americans who have been hit the hardest by the economic downturn. Republicans in the Senate blocked these benefits for more than 7 weeks, causing 2.5 million American families to lose unemployment benefits. The legislation passed by a voted of 272 to 152. It will now go to the President's desk for his signature.

“During these difficult economic times, its critically important to provide assistance for those who have been hit the hardest,” said Rep. Luján. “Millions of Americans are trying their best to get by, but unfortunately these unemployment benefits have been blocked for weeks. As we work to get our economy back on track, an important step is to make sure that families are able to put food on their tables and make ends meet as they seek work. By extending unemployment benefits, we'll help millions of Americans during this difficult time.”

This bill extends the Emergency Unemployment Compensation and Extended Benefits programs through November 30, 2010 and retroactively restores benefits to some who already lost their benefits.