Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2014

Hon. John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

This week, the number of Americans out of work through no fault of their own who have seen their emergency unemployment insurance cut off has surpassed 2 million. Among them are close to 200,000 Veterans who have served their country and are now looking for a job, according to a new report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

As Members of Congress, we find it unconscionable that the country these men and women have so proudly served has cut off this vital economic lifeline as they struggle to find work, after the worst recession since the Great Depression. Unemployment insurance is critical for these Veterans to be able feed their families and put a roof over their head as they seek to transition from combat to career or try to get back on their feet with a new job. And it demands responsibility in return by requiring them to prove they're actively looking for work.

But the Republican majority of the House of Representatives has repeatedly blocked Democratic efforts to extend the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, which lapsed over two months ago. The result has been increasing hardship for the families of two million Americans, including 200,000 Veterans.

For the sake of these Veterans who are heroes, we urge you to allow an up-or-down vote on a proposal to extend unemployment insurance as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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