

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Atwater
312 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Larry Cretul
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear President Atwater and Speaker Cretul:

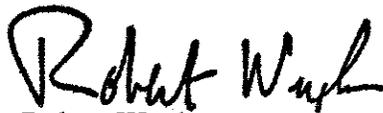
We are writing to respectfully request that you change Florida's unemployment eligibility criteria to extend benefits for Floridians. Without legislative changes, Floridians may not be able to take full advantage of federal benefits afforded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

While the economic crisis has affected families and businesses nationwide, the effects have been particularly devastating for Floridians. As we are all acutely aware, Florida's unemployment rate is the highest it has been in 30 years and is significantly above the national average. As you know, the ARRA provides an additional 20 weeks of unemployment benefits to help those hardworking Americans who are still unable to find work in this troubled economy. In addition, the ARRA would provide \$444 million for Florida's unemployment compensation trust fund if the state expands coverage for beneficiaries.

In addition, according to the United States Department of Labor, if a state makes these changes in good faith, the state would not be required to repay the payment received from the federal government if these changes were later repealed.

Thank you so much for your thoughtful consideration of this issue. We stand ready to assist you in any way as Florida recovers from this brutal recession.

Sincerely,



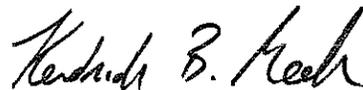
Robert Wexler
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Alcee L. Hastings
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Corrine Brown
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Kendrick B. Meek
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

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Ron Klein

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Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Alan Grayson

Alan Grayson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Suzanne M. Kosmas

Suzanne M. Kosmas
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Cc: Governor Charlie Crist

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