



## Title II - Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act

### **Strengthening Economic Security for American Families**

*Summary of provisions from the Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee*

#### **Provisions Included in the Economic Recovery Package:**

- *Unemployment Insurance*  
(Extension of Extended Benefits Program, \$25 per week add-on to UI, and UI Modernization)
- *Emergency TANF Fund for Caseload Increases*
- *One-time Extra SSI Payment to Low-Income Elderly & Disabled*
- *Temporary Restoration of Child Support Enforcement Funding*

#### **Background:**

##### **1. Encourage Unemployment Insurance (UI) Modernization**

The proposal, similar to legislation passed by the House in 2007, would provide up to \$7 billion to reward and encourage States enacting specific reforms designed to increase UI coverage among low-wage, part-time and other jobless workers, as well as provide an additional \$500 million in UI administrative funding.

##### **2. Continue the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program**

The current federally-funded extended unemployment benefits program (which provides up to 33 weeks of extended benefits) is scheduled to begin to phase out at the end of March 2009. The proposal would use general revenues to extend the program through December 31, 2009.

##### **3. Increase UI Checks by \$25 a Week for Jobless Workers**

The proposal would provide federal funding to increase both regular and extended unemployment benefits by \$25 a week through calendar year 2009. (The current average unemployment benefit is roughly \$300 a week.)

##### **4. Provide Additional TANF Contingency Funds to Serve Needy Families**

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is a fixed annual block grant with a very limited contingency fund. The proposal would provide additional emergency contingency funds for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 for States with increasing caseloads for cash assistance or increasing expenditures for short-term assistance or subsidized employment.

**5. Provide Additional SSI Payment to Disabled and Elderly**

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides monthly cash assistance to 7.5 million low-income disabled and elderly individuals. The proposal would provide an additional SSI payment in 2009 equal to the average monthly payment under the program (about \$450 for an individual and \$630 for a couple).

**6. Restore Child Support Enforcement Funding**

In 2006, legislation cut federal funding for child support enforcement by precluding States from receiving federal matching funds when reinvesting incentive funding into the program. The proposal would suspend this change in fiscal years 2009 and 2010, thereby restoring full federal funding for collecting support owed to families.

*Prepared by the Committee on Ways & Means*