

Washington, DC – Today, the House of Representatives voted 403-12 to pass the Senate-passed the [Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 \(HR 3548\)](#) , which would extend unemployment benefits to workers across the country. Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) released the following statement on the bill's passage.

“Millions of Americans, and their families, are suffering. Through no fault of their own, they cannot find jobs, and their unemployment benefits have or soon will run out. This extension of unemployment benefits will help them to weather this storm until our economy can recover from last year's crash.”

The bill, originally called the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009 when the [House passed it in September](#) , would provide a 14-week extension of unemployment benefits in every state, as well as an additional six weeks for the 27 states with the highest unemployment rates. Unemployment in Texas has been rising steadily in recent months, hitting a [22-year high in August](#) . Unemployment benefits not only help families who are struggling to make ends meet, but economist Mark Zandi reports that every dollar spent on unemployment benefits produces [\\$1.63 in economic activity](#) .

The House vote today passed the same version of the bill that the Senate passed yesterday, and the president [is expected to sign it into law this week](#) .

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