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For Immediate Release

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Statement by Working America Executive Director Karen Nussbaum

On Immediate Need for Unemployment Extension

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www.unemploymentlifeline.org

Senate Republicans are trying to politicize the experience of millions of Americans without work and it simply shouldn't stand. The Senate must act THIS week to pass the 30 day extension of unemployment benefits to prevent a lapse in this program. Working people experienced a lapse in benefits last month and cannot afford another, considerably worse one this month. Both struggling workers and the economic recovery itself will be jeopardized if the Senate does not act. We must not forget – this is also merely a stop-gap solution. Congress must pass an extension through the end of the year.

Working America's more than 3 million members include 500,000 jobless workers, many of whom are unemployed for the first time in their lives. They are living the reality of six job-seekers for every job, sending out resumes and applying for jobs by the dozen. For them, as for more than 14 million other unemployed workers, unemployment insurance is a lifeline that lets them feed their children and stay in their homes. It is also a lifeline to their communities, where every \$1 of unemployment insurance benefits results in \$1.69 of economic stimulus.

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Working America, community affiliate of the AFL-CIO, represents working families to mobilize around economic issues like health care and good jobs. Working America represents 3 million people and is the fastest-growing organization for working people in the country. For more information, go to www.workingamerica.org.