

Dear Friend,

Congress and the President last week extended by 20 weeks [unemployment benefits](#) for New Jersey workers looking for employment who have exhausted their current benefits. Extending these benefits is the right thing to do for our families and it is also the right thing to do for our economy. Economists have determined that extending these benefits is one of the most cost-effective and immediate ways to stimulate the economy.

Early each month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the Department of Labor announces the total number of [employed and unemployed](#) people in the United States. To determine the unemployment rate, the government conducts a monthly sample (of about 60,000 households, translating into approximately 110,000 individuals). Those classified as unemployed do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. Click [here](#) to read more about how the BLS measures the unemployment rate.

The unemployment rate does not include those who are underemployed – those who have given up looking for a job and part-time workers who want full-time work. Economists say it is difficult to determine how many Americans are underemployed, which would include, for instance, hourly workers whose work hours have been reduced, contract workers getting less or no work, laid-off workers who found new jobs that pay significantly less or offer fewer hours, and full-time workers taking pay cuts for the same amount of work. As our economy starts to recover and as more jobs become available – as I believe they will – we need to ensure that underemployed Americans benefit from the recovery.

Honoring Those in Uniform

This week we pause to honor and formally thank and remember those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces to preserve our rights and freedoms. This week we also remember the victims of the horrific and senseless attack at Fort Hood in Texas. Speaking at a memorial service on Tuesday, the President offered a tribute to those who fight for our country:

“We need not look to the past for greatness, because it is before our very eyes. This generation of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have volunteered in a time of certain danger. They are part of the finest fighting force that the world has ever known. They have served tour after tour of duty in distant, different and difficult places. They have stood watch in blinding deserts and on snowy mountains. They have extended the opportunity of self-government to peoples that have suffered tyranny and war. They are man and woman; white, black, and brown; of all faiths and stations - all Americans, serving together to protect our people, while giving others half a world away the chance to lead a better life.” The full speech can be found [here](#) .

We can never fully repay the debt that we owe to these great Americans – and those who have bravely served our country before them – but what we can do is [fulfill America's promise](#) to them to provide quality healthcare, job opportunities, and retirement security.

Town Hall Meeting in West Windsor Tonight at 7 p.m.

Just a reminder that I will be holding a town hall meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in West Windsor. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of [Grover Middle School](#) , which is located at 10 Southfield Road.If you have any questions about the town meeting, please call me toll free at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

P.S. Just a reminder: I always want to hear from you, but please don't reply to this e-mail. Instead, please email me through my website at www.holt.house.gov , or call me at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT (1-877-874-4658) to let me know what's on your mind. Please also note that you may unsubscribe from this list by clicking on the "unsubscribe" link at the bottom of this email.