

Emergency Assistance & Reforms Consistent with Statutory PAYGO

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAMS – HR 4213 would continue federal support for extended unemployment compensation programs through December. This includes both the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program and 100% federal funding for the Extended Benefits (EB) program, which under permanent law is a 50/50 federal/State funded program. The bill also would extend the Federal Additional Compensation (FAC) program, which increases all UI benefits by \$25 a week.

Without this extension, funding for extended benefits will begin to phase out after the last week in May. The Department of Labor projects that if Congress fails to extend the current federal support for extended unemployment compensation, over 1.2 million jobless workers will lose all access to benefits by the end of June, and nearly 5 million will lose unemployment benefits by the end of the year.

MAINTAINING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE – HR 4213 includes a reasonable update in the payment rate for physicians who take Medicare patients. Without this provision, payment rates for Medicare physicians would drop by over 20 percent in less than 2 weeks, creating the potential for doctors to leave Medicare in droves.

The impact of this attrition would directly hurt seniors and people with disabilities, because they wouldn't be able to get access to the care they need. It would also lead to more people needing costly emergency room care as a result of a lack of access to doctors or preventive care. The same goes for military retirees and their families because payment rates in TRICARE are tied to those in Medicare. The bill would provide relief from these payment cuts in order to maintain health care access for millions of Medicare and TRICARE patients.