

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2013

The Honorable Pat McCrory
Governor
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

Dear Governor McCrory:

As members of North Carolina's Congressional Delegation, we do not routinely express our views on legislation presented to the Governor. However, the serious threat to 170,000 unemployed and displaced workers in North Carolina posed by House Bill 4, as well as the direct conflict it creates with federal policy, compel us to do so. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject this economically and socially costly measure.

House Bill 4 would block the federal support promised to 170,000 North Carolinians through the federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program (EUC08), which was recently extended through January 1, 2014. EUC08 gives assistance to the long-term unemployed by providing federal unemployment benefits after 26 weeks when state benefits are exhausted. The bipartisan American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-240), also known as the "fiscal cliff deal," authorized the EUC program for states through January 1, 2014, provided they maintain benefits for the unemployed in their state unemployment insurance programs.

Enacting House Bill 4 would force the long-term unemployed to forfeit \$780 million in needed benefits made available by federal law. The dramatic reductions to the state's unemployment program under this bill, which includes plans to cut the maximum weekly benefits from \$535 to \$350, to reduce the number of benefit weeks from 26 to 20, and to eliminate benefits for veterans who separate from employment for military service-related disabilities, would make North Carolina ineligible for any EUC08 benefits. Moreover, eliminating this important safety net for jobless residents would cost North Carolina's economy \$1.5 billion in economic activity at a time when we cannot afford to drive business away.

Due to the severe burden this bill would place on jobless North Carolinians, and the regressive impact it would create on our state's economy, we strongly urge you to veto this deeply flawed and shortsighted legislation.

Sincerely,


G. K. BUTTERFIELD
Member of Congress


DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress


MEL WATT
Member of Congress