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REPUBLICANS LEAVE ONE MILLION UNEMPLOYED WITHOUT HELP

WASHINGTON, D.C. - One day after President Bush unveiled his latest economic scheme to give hundreds of billions of dollars to the rich, House Republicans refused to extend unemployment benefits to one million laid off workers. The House approved a Republican bill that only extends benefits for 13 weeks, failing to provide assistance to one million jobless workers whose benefits expired last year.

The Republican leadership refused to allow a vote on a Democratic proposal that would reestablish the Temporary Emergency Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program and guarantee all jobless workers at least 26 weeks of extended benefits.

"Our priorities should be creating new jobs and helping unemployed families until we can get them back to work. President Bush's priority of more tax giveaways to the rich will add to the two million private sector jobs already lost and will do nothing to boost the economy," said Schakowsky, who vowed to fight for economic justice and fairness.