



For Immediate Release: 04/17/09 Contact: Derrick Crowe 512-320-0222, ext 112 or crowe@cphp.org

CPPP CONGRATULATES TEXAS SENATE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE VOTE, URGES FINAL PASSAGE

Austin, Texas---The Center for Public Policy Priorities today released the following statement applauding the Texas Senate for taking steps toward repairing and modernizing the state's unemployment insurance (UI) system. CPPP also released [an analysis of the benefits of UI modernization for each Texas Senate district](#). Last night, the Senate approved CSSB 1569 on second reading, paving the way for its final passage in the Senate.

"The Texas Senate made the right choice for Texas by pushing toward modernization of our unemployment insurance (UI) system. Unemployment insurance is more important than ever: about 800,000 Texans lack employment, with more than 47,000 losing their jobs in March alone and our unemployment rate rising to 6.7 percent.

"Our UI system is an important public structure that provides temporary income to ensure that unemployed Texas workers can continue to care for their families when they lose their jobs through no fault of their own. Unemployment insurance also keeps money flowing into local economies to support small businesses and protect the overall health of the economy. Last night's vote shows that our state senators understand the seriousness of the economic downturn and its effect on Texas families and their communities. As our data shows, the senators' constituents and local economies will benefit enormously should this legislation become law.

"We encourage the Senate to follow through over the next few days with a final vote on their version of UI modernization legislation. We urge the Texas House of Representatives to pass the senate bill quickly, and without substantive changes, so that we can get UI modernization legislation on the governor's desk."

CPPP released data on the benefits of UI modernization for each Texas Senate district, available online at: <http://www.cphp.org/files/UIDevelopmentBySenateDistrict.pdf>.

More information on the importance of UI and the need to modernize it can be found at: <http://www.cphp.org/research.php?aid=854>.

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