
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8000

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senator Stevens

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The tenth amendment states that "the powers not delegated
10 to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the
11 states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people;" and

12 WHEREAS, The authority over determinations of unemployment
13 compensation eligibility and payment under state unemployment insurance
14 programs belongs to the states; and

15 WHEREAS, The federal government, through the American Recovery and
16 Reinvestment Act, mandates that states liberalize their unemployment
17 insurance laws by expanding eligibility in order to receive temporary
18 federal funding; and

19 WHEREAS, The federal government is attempting to persuade states to
20 spend more money for the promise of short-term federal funding; and

1 WHEREAS, The required federal changes would prohibit the denial of
2 unemployment compensation to individuals who limit their availability
3 to part-time work, extend the length of benefits to individuals who
4 participate in job training programs, and provide eligibility to
5 individuals who quit their jobs for family reasons as defined in
6 federal law; and

7 WHEREAS, These expansions of the system would move state
8 unemployment insurance away from its original goal of providing
9 temporary partial wage replacement assistance to workers who lose their
10 jobs through no fault of their own and move it toward a federally
11 controlled public assistance social welfare program;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
13 unemployment insurance modernization funding authorized under the
14 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act be dispersed to states without
15 requiring an expansion of state laws.

16 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
17 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
18 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor, the
19 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
20 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
21 Washington.

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