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Contact: Emma Stieglitz, [emmaS@berlinrosen.com](mailto:emmaS@berlinrosen.com), (646) 200-5307

## House Leaders Thwart Effort to Renew Federal Jobless Aid for Long-Term Unemployed, Again

### *Statement of Christine Owens, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project*

"Today, in the House of Representatives' latest move to thwart an extension of federal jobless aid for the long-term unemployed, the House Rules Committee refused to allow a fully-paid-for three-month Emergency Unemployment Compensation program reauthorization to even have a vote on the House floor.

"Although members of the House leadership had previously signaled their willingness to entertain an EUC bill as long as it was paid for, Rules Committee Chair Pete Sessions of Texas declined to allow the amendment to the Medicare doctors reimbursement bill, citing the fact that this was not part of a larger jobs bill, even though no one from Congress has even been attempting to negotiate such a bill.

"This kind of 'moving the goalposts' maneuver demonstrates the callous disregard far too many have for the 1.3 million unemployed workers who will lose their benefits in the first week of January, as lawmakers appear more concerned with hurrying out of town for the holidays than staying and doing the work of those who elected them and need them most.

"NELP calls on Speaker Boehner to take the steps needed to ensure this measure gets a floor vote, and on Congress overall to stay in town until a deal on EUC is struck -- one that protects the long-term unemployed from the inability to pay for heat, food and housing as we enter a long, cold winter in many parts of this country."

*The National Employment Law Project is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that conducts research and advocates on issues affecting low-wage and unemployed workers. For more about NELP, visit [www.nelp.org](http://www.nelp.org).*

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