



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON

**children  
& families**

Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count

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### **Senate Filibuster Hurts Wisconsin Economy and Laid-off Workers**

The US Senate failed yesterday on a vote of 57-41 to end a filibuster holding up passage of its version of a comprehensive jobs bill.

"Nearly 33,000 unemployed Wisconsin workers will lose unemployment insurance benefits, which is a critical source of money that they spend quickly and close to home, boosting the local economy and helping local businesses avoid layoffs," said Ken Taylor, executive director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. "More than 2 million people nationwide will lose these benefits if Congress fails to act before leaving for the July 4 recess."

Taylor added that:

"Wisconsin won't receive \$229 million in federal Medicaid relief, which is likely to force another round of state spending cuts, in addition to the deep cuts already enacted as a result of the unprecedented drop in revenues brought on by the recession.

"The additional state budget cuts will cause private- and public-sector job losses and heighten the risk of a double-dip recession as the loss of spending power ripples through the economy. Without the continuation of federal relief, state budget-cutting actions nationwide are expected to place at risk as many as 900,000 jobs over the next year.

"Wisconsin will lose up to \$94 million in federal funding for the TANF Emergency Fund, which helps support job training and safety net services for the sharp increase in the number of low-income families, and also helps the state finance the earned income tax credit.

"Congress should not leave for the July 4 holiday until it extends unemployment benefits, provides additional aid to cash-strapped states, and extends funding for the TANF emergency jobs programs."

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