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Thank 6 Lawmakers For Their UI Stand In Senate!

Six Democrats Cross The Aisle To Ensure Unemployment Insurance Bill Keeps Moving

Did you hear about [Wednesday's dramatic move in the state Senate](#) to keep the unemployment insurance (UI) bill moving ahead?

In a rare across-the-aisle effort Tuesday, six Democrats joined Republicans in an effort to get UI legislation ([Senate Bill 5135](#)) back on track. Right now, Republicans and most Democrats are divided over a bill that would delay a UI rate increase for 2011. While there is agreement on the need to delay the rate increase, the bill was modified in committee to eliminate a provision that would have allowed 70,000 unemployed workers access to federally extended benefits at no cost to the state.

On Wednesday, Republicans and six Democrats moved to add the benefits piece back in, to make sure those 70,000 people were not cut off from unemployment insurance.

If you live or do business in one of the six districts listed below – or in a bordering district – and support the action taken, please take a moment to call and thank these senators for their stand on UI:

- [Sen. Brian Hatfield](#), D-Raymond, 19th Legislative District
- [Sen. Steve Hobbs](#), D-Lake Stevens, 44th Legislative District
- [Sen. Jim Kastama](#), D-Puyallup, 25th Legislative District
- [Sen. Craig Pridemore](#), D-Vancouver, 49th Legislative District
- [Sen. Tim Sheldon](#), D-Potlatch, 35th Legislative District
- [Sen. Rodney Tom](#), D-Bellevue, 48th Legislative District

Not sure of your legislative district? Call the toll-free legislative hotline at (800) 562-6000 to find out or to leave a message for one of these six senators.

SB 5135 must pass and be delivered to the governor's desk by next Tuesday, February 8 to ensure a temporary UI rate reduction. Otherwise, UI rates will go up as scheduled for thousands of Washington businesses next week.

Questions on any of the topics addressed in this "WALP Watch"? Contact the WALP Office at info@walp.org or (425) 967-0729.