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**For immediate Release  
June 25, 2010**

### **DETR Continues to Accept Claims While Congress Considers Bill**

“While the most recent Senate vote failed, work continues on the federal level to pass new sunset dates on the extended benefit programs,” said Cynthia Jones, deputy director for the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) and administrator for the Employment Security Division. “With Nevada now having the highest unemployment rate in the nation, passage is important to the state's economic recovery and to families whose lives are in turmoil due to the hardships unemployment brings.”

DETR will continue to take Federal and State Extended Unemployment Insurance benefit claims through the telephone call centers, as in the past weeks, until additional direction is received from the Department of Labor or a new Bill is brought forward and passed, Jones said.

“The agency’s goal is to take a proactive position and move quickly to process and pay these claims, if and when it becomes possible to do so,” Jones said. “We appreciate the public’s patience and will communicate any updates as they become available on our website at [www.expressclaim.org](http://www.expressclaim.org) and [www.nvdetr.org](http://www.nvdetr.org).”

Presently, 5,141 unemployed Nevadan’s who were collecting State Extended Benefits (which is the last extension available) have now stopped receiving weekly benefit payments.

Currently, there are about 120,000 people receiving unemployment benefits with 65,712 of them receiving benefits under the EUC program. Until Congress acts, those on EUC can only finish collecting for the extension tier they are on, which means approximately 6,000 of them will stop receiving benefits each week.

The Nevada JobConnect offices continue to be available to help jobseekers look for employment and obtain training to be better prepared to compete in the job market.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the status of the extension dates for Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) Insurance Claims?**

- As of June 25, 2010 Congress has not signed a bill to extend the federal extension programs' sunset dates.

### **What is the result of Congress not extending the program dates so far?**

- Claimants who have filed or will file new unemployment insurance claims after May 30, 2010 will only qualify for *up to* 26 weeks, instead of the maximum of 99 weeks that the extensions allowed.
- Current Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) claimants will continue to receive funds from their current extension level until exhausted. They will not be able to progress to the next extension level. They will only be eligible to receive those benefits awarded on their current claim. They may check their current balance at [www.Expressclaim.org](http://www.Expressclaim.org) or by calling Quickclaim, the weekly claim filing system.
- Due to a lack of congressional action, State Extended Benefits (SEB) stopped June 13, 2010 even if the claimant had an available balance. Claimants are encouraged to continue filing weekly in order to receive benefits as quickly as possible if the bill passes and is retroactive.
- Federal Additional Compensation (FAC) is the additional \$25.00 per week approved by Congress. This will continue for claims established before May 23, 2010. There must also be a balance on the claim as of the benefit week ending May 29, 2010.

### **How does a claimant know if he/she has a Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) claim or State Extended Benefits (SEB) claim?**

- Individuals on State Extended Benefits are required to submit a weekly paper claim card and work search record, otherwise it would be an EUC or regular claim.

### **Why do the people who are on Federal Benefits get to exhaust their claims while the people on State Benefits are cut off all at once on June 12, 2010?**

- Last year, Nevada added a temporary mechanism to the Extended Benefit law that offered additional weeks on a SEB claim. Without congressional action, these additional weeks were not available after June 12, 2010.
- Nevada State Law provides a formula for determining if the State can pay regular State Extended Benefits. Since the State of Nevada no longer meets the requirements for State Extended Benefits, these benefits stopped on June 12, 2010. -

### **What if claimants files for Unemployment for the first time, are they impacted by the sunset dates of these programs?**

- No, regular Unemployment Insurance benefits will not be impacted.

### **Will benefit payments be retroactive if the bill passes?**

- The agency will not know the full requirements of the bill until it is signed.

### **What can claimants do to ensure they are paid as quickly as possible if the bill passes?**

- Claimants should contact the agency and a claims representative will either take a new claim and/or provide instructions. The agency will hold these claims and take necessary action when the status of the bill is determined. If a claimant is filing a State Extended Benefit claim, he/she should continue to mail in the weekly paper claim cards until instructed otherwise. If the bill is passed retroactively, the agency will pay these claims as quickly as possible.



**DETR is comprised of the Employment Security Division, Equal Rights Commission, Rehabilitation Division, the Information Development and Processing Division and the Research and Analysis Bureau. DETR works in partnership with the Nevada JobConnect System to provide training and job placement services to job seekers and to assist employers in hiring practices.**