

# Gaines Supports Unemployment Insurance Legislation To Give Relief To Californians Looking For Work

Assemblyman Ted Gaines, R-Roseville, today (March 23) joined lawmakers from both parties in voting to pass a measure that will give out-of-work Californians extra weeks of unemployment benefits while they continue to look for a job, funded through money the state will receive under the Federal Stimulus legislation.

"With unemployment in my district and throughout California topping 10.5 percent, it was critical that I support this legislation giving unemployed constituents a helping hand during a time when they need the relief most," Gaines said. "I applaud Democrats and Republicans for coming together and setting aside their differences to help those who are desperately looking for work."

Assembly Bill 23xxx will allow unemployed workers who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits to receive an additional seven weeks of assistance - for a total of 20 weeks under the federal extension.

Gaines said the additional weeks of unemployment benefits will be paid solely with federal dollars and will not impact the state's budget.

Republicans had concerns with a prior version of the legislation debated last week, which GOP lawmakers said would leave the state on the hook for future costs. This compromise measure includes changes sought by Republicans to protect taxpayers and business owners.

"This measure makes it very clear that the Federal government will have to pay 100 percent of the costs of the additional unemployment benefits, and that not one dime will come from California taxpayers," Gaines said "It also includes unemployment insurance reforms to help partially offset any additional costs to businesses, many of which are already struggling to keep their doors open. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to further reduce impact on taxpayers and business owners."

Assemblyman Ted Gaines represents the 4th Assembly District, which includes portions of Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento & Alpine counties.