WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today voted against H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2009. This legislation, which would extend the current unemployment benefits extension program by 13 weeks for states with unemployment rates above 8.5%, would apply to only 28 states and the District of Columbia, and provide no unemployment relief for unemployed Nebraskans.

“This bill discriminates against people who are suffering in Nebraska,” said Fortenberry. “If you are without a job, you are 100 percent unemployed, and it should not matter whether you are unemployed in Nebraska, Ohio, Michigan, or anywhere else. It’s wrong. It’s unfair.”

Unemployed individuals in Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming would see no extension of benefits under this bill.

Fortenberry is a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

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