I have been working on this legislation for several months, but decided that now is the appropriate time, because it has the potential to provide much needed economic stimulus. People will keep more of their money with these deductions, and will not be encouraged to pay high fees and risk losing their homes. I think that the time is right to restore the de-

with this legislation, millions of laid-off workers and their families will be left behind with no guarantee that they will retain their unemploy-

ment benefits, health care benefits or receive any re-training opportunities.

The security provisions in this bill do not go far enough. The airline industry has repeatedly fought the government tooth and nail over in-

creased airline and airport security measures and efforts to improve customer service. We cannot afford for them to fail, but they deserve a stern warning, not just a check.

I had sincerely hoped that last week’s tragic events would have brought this Congress together in a bipartisan fashion to help everyone facing economic hardship. I look forward to legislation next week that brings relief and pro-

tection to those already unemployed and to the thousands of additional workers whose jobs are in jeopardy.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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I stand here tonight ready to help the airline industry—but not just a part of it. Those who say they will help the workers next week or next month must be asked, Why not tonight? To those who tell consumers to wait for airline safety measures, I ask, Why can’t they be part of this package? Are they less deserving, less important, less needy? We can go back and within hours add them. Then I would gladly and proudly vote yes.