

DAVID LOEBSACK

2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:

MILITARY PERSONNEL

READINESS

EDUCATION AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

November 23, 2011

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The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner,

As you well know, far too many Americans are still out of work and struggling to make ends meet as a result of the economic downturn. Unfortunately, the dysfunction and partisan brinkmanship that permeate Washington have made it all but impossible for Congress to reach agreement on commonsense, substantive proposals to reduce our deficit, get our economy moving again, and create jobs. The recent failure of the Super Committee to reach a deal is just one example of how the gridlock in Washington is hurting American families and our economy.

Getting Americans back to work and helping middle class families get back on their feet is not a partisan issue – it's an American one. It is past time that Congress lay aside partisan differences and get to work on critical issues facing our constituents. That is why it is essential that the House of Representatives take quick action on several issues that will directly impact working families, seniors, and the 9 percent of Americans who are seeking, but unable to find work. Partisan bickering cannot once again lead to stalemate.

That is why I am calling on you to bring legislation to the floor that would extend and expand the payroll tax cuts. If this tax cut is allowed to expire because Congress can't work together, millions of working Americans will see their taxes go up at a time when they can least afford it. A typical American family making \$50,000 a year would see their taxes go up by \$1,000. I know Iowa families can't afford that tax increase in these tough times. On the other hand, if Congress can come together and do what's right for hard-working Americans by extending and expanding the payroll tax cut, a family making \$50,000 would get an extra \$500 in their pocket and would receive a tax cut of \$1,500 over the course of the year. It's the right thing to do for our constituents, and I urge you to bring legislation to the Floor as soon as possible to give working families the tax relief they need.

I was raised in part by my grandmother, and I know that seniors living on fixed incomes have been struggling over the last few years. They cannot afford to have their doctors turn them away because Congress failed to extend the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) to ensure that millions of seniors are able to visit the doctor of their choice and get the care they deserve at their local hospital. The SGR must be extended as soon as possible so that seniors know they will have access to the medical care they need.

With millions of Americans out of work, we must get our economy moving again, and we must ensure that our constituents who are out of work and struggling to support their families have the support they need. Unemployment insurance must be extended for those families so that they can put food on their table and pay for winter heating bills.

It is extremely important—both for American families and for our economy—that these essential priorities are addressed as soon as possible. I look forward to working with you to give a tax cut to working families, ensure our seniors have access to the health care they need, and give struggling Americans the lifeline they need while they continue to struggle through this economic downturn.

Thank you for your consideration of these important priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Loebsack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Loebsack
Iowa's 2nd District