

HM 1221

2011

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to enact a law providing unemployment assistance
4 for individuals who become unemployed as a result of an
5 oil spill.

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7 WHEREAS, there was an explosion at the Deepwater Horizon
8 oil rig the night of April 20, 2010, and

9 WHEREAS, the explosion caused hundreds of millions of
10 gallons of oil to spill into the Gulf of Mexico and wash up on
11 the coastlines of the five Gulf states, and

12 WHEREAS, this man-made disaster has spoiled Florida's
13 coastline and waterways and devastated its fishing and tourism
14 industries, and

15 WHEREAS, this man-made disaster has directly resulted in
16 the loss of jobs for Floridians, and

17 WHEREAS, many of these individuals were self-employed or
18 independent contractors, and as such do not qualify for
19 unemployment compensation benefits, and

20 WHEREAS, the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance
21 Program benefits individuals who become unemployed only as a
22 direct result of a disaster declared by the President of the
23 United States pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
24 and Emergency Act of 1974, and assistance paid under the act may
25 be invoked only for natural disasters, NOW, THEREFORE,

26
27 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
28

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29 That the Legislature requests the United States Congress to
30 enact legislation that creates an Oil Spill Unemployment
31 Assistance Program to provide income assistance to individuals
32 who are unemployed as a result of a spill of national
33 significance and who are not entitled to any other unemployment
34 compensation, the cost of which shall be borne by responsible
35 parties under the Oil Pollution Act.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
37 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
38 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
39 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
40 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.