

By Senator Gaetz

4-00271-11

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Senate Memorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the Legislature requests the United States Congress to

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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.