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Time to end never-ending unemployment benefits

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The nonrenewal of the unemployment extension is being debated by the talking heads of both parties with good and bad points on both sides of the argument.

My personal opinion is a line must be drawn in the sand somewhere or unemployment benefits would be an infinite program with no incentive to even seek gainful employment. With the improving economy and dropping unemployment it is hardly the time to extend this expensive benefit.

According to an article I found in my American Legion Magazine, “A Cato Institute report comparing the welfare benefits offered to individuals in different states reveals that Hawaii provides the most generous benefits package in the country, and Mississippi the smallest. The report was analyzed by The Wall Street Journal, which notes, ‘The most generous benefits are in states that have the highest costs of living.’ The jurisdictions offering the largest benefits packages include: Hawaii \$49,175, Washington D.C. \$43,099, Massachusetts \$42,515, Connecticut \$38,761, New Jersey \$38,728, Rhode Island \$38,632, New York \$38,004, Vermont \$37,705, New Hampshire \$37,160, and Maryland \$35,672”

The article did not give all the states' figures but it is easy to see with these examples why many individuals given a choice of taking employment with a less than optimal situation or simply riding things out on the taxpayer's nickel would chose the easy path of this nation's welfare state.

It is time to put the never-ending unemployment extension to bed. We have all worked at jobs we didn't particularly want until something better would come along. It's time for the longtime unemployed to do just that and break the circle of entitlement mentality.

— **Marc Shoffstall, Wapakoneta**