



Assembly Member **SANDRÉ SWANSON**
News Release

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Assemblymember Swanson, Other Assembly Leaders Announce Assistance to Employment Development

(Sacramento) -- At a press conference today, Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson (D- Alameda), Chair of the Labor and Employment Committee, joined Assembly colleagues to announce that the California State Assembly will provide financial assistance to the Employment Development Department (EDD), a state agency that provides assistance to unemployed Californians. This financial support will come from funds generated by a 10% cut to the Assembly's own operating budget.

"Unemployment assistance is our oldest form of economic stimulus. Our job is to help people continue to support their families while they are searching for employment. This is fundamental to getting Californians back to work while also stimulating the economy," Assemblymember Swanson announced.

Other Assemblymembers in attendance were Noreen Evans (D- Santa Rosa), Ted Lieu (D- Torrance), Juan Arambula (D-Fresno), Joe Coto (D-San Jose), and Fiona Ma (D-San Francisco).

Currently, EDD is experiencing unprecedented call volumes as unemployment continues to climb. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate rose to

9.3 % in December, marking an increase of nearly 1% from November as well as the largest one month increase in unemployment in over ten years. California is well above the national average of 7.6 %., as reported by the United States Department of Labor.

According to Speaker Karen Bass' office, funding assistance provided by the Assembly will be allocated into four separate entities, which include: Unemployment Insurance seminars in both metropolitan and rural communities; providing personal computers to One-Stop partners; manufacturing of new municipal information campaigns with new outreach technology; and the production of remote access equipment.

"These tough economic times require that we all do our part. EDD is a vital agency that helps Californians get the support they've earned while assisting them in preparing to reenter the workplace. These kinds of investments are the only way we will get California out of this deep recession, and put consumer spending back on track," Assemblymember Swanson concluded.

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