

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 3071

To provide for a freeze on the pay of Members of Congress and appropriations for certain congressional offices until there are sufficient improvements in the national unemployment rate, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2010

Mr. BENNET introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide for a freeze on the pay of Members of Congress and appropriations for certain congressional offices until there are sufficient improvements in the national unemployment rate, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Congressional Pay  
5       Freeze Act of 2010”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

1           (1) the national unemployment rate remained  
2           at or exceeded 10 percent throughout each month of  
3           the fourth quarter of calendar year 2009;

4           (2) the national unemployment rate remained  
5           at or exceeded 9.4 percent for each month of the  
6           third quarter of calendar year 2009;

7           (3) in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2009,  
8           the national unemployment rate reached its highest  
9           level since 1983;

10          (4) in 2009, the number of mass layoff events  
11          (as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the  
12          Department of Labor) totaled 28,030, the highest  
13          number of mass layoff events recorded since 1996,  
14          the first year for which this data became available;

15          (5) according to Christina Romer of the Council  
16          of Economic Advisors, more than 7,000,000 Ameri-  
17          cans lost their jobs from December 2007 to Decem-  
18          ber 2009;

19          (6) in December 2009, 39.8 percent of unem-  
20          ployed persons had been unemployed for 27 weeks or  
21          more;

22          (7) until the jobs numbers in the United States  
23          steadily improve for 4 consecutive quarters, Mem-  
24          bers of Congress and their offices should not get a

1 cost of living adjustment or other salary increase;  
2 and

3 (8) until Congress makes the difficult decisions  
4 necessary to get annual Federal budget deficits  
5 under control, Members of Congress should not get  
6 a cost of living adjustment or other pay increase.

7 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTIONS ON PAY OF MEMBERS OF CON-**  
8 **GRESS.**

9 (a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Mem-  
10 bers of Congress” means the Members of Congress de-  
11 scribed under section 601(a)(1) of the Legislative Reorga-  
12 nization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31(1)).

13 (b) RESTRICTIONS.—

14 (1) RESTRICTION ON COLA ADJUSTMENTS.—  
15 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no ad-  
16 justment shall be made under section 601(a) of the  
17 Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C.  
18 31) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Mem-  
19 bers of Congress) during any fiscal year, until the  
20 Bureau of Labor Statistics average of monthly un-  
21 employment rates for a quarter decreases for 4 con-  
22 secutive quarters with respect to quarters which  
23 begin after the date of enactment of this Act.

24 (2) RESTRICTION ON PAY INCREASES.—Not-  
25 withstanding any other provision of law, no increase



1 for that office or committee in fiscal year 2010, until the  
2 fiscal year following a report submitted by the Secretary  
3 of Labor under section 5(a).

4 **SEC. 5. DETERMINATIONS AND REPORTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall sub-  
6 mit a report to Congress whenever the Secretary deter-  
7 mines that the Bureau of Labor Statistics average of  
8 monthly unemployment rates for a quarter decreases for  
9 4 consecutive quarters with respect to quarters which  
10 begin after the date of enactment of this Act.

11 (b) RESTRICTION OF COLA ADJUSTMENTS.—Not  
12 later than the end of each calendar year, the Secretary  
13 of Labor shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Sen-  
14 ate and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of  
15 Representatives on—

16 (1) any determination made under subsection

17 (a); and

18 (2) whether or not the restriction under section

19 3(b)(1) shall apply to the succeeding fiscal year.

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