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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

## **DWD Secretary Gassman: State Labor Agency Ready to Process Retroactive Payments Under 13-Month UI Benefits Extension**

*Over 12,000 Wisconsinites with interrupted unemployment benefits to receive payments within week*

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today said the agency is ready to begin processing Unemployment Insurance (UI) payments immediately for more than 12,000 Wisconsin claimants whose benefits were interrupted until today's signing of a 13-month extension of federal benefits until January 2012.

"For Wisconsinites who are out of work through no fault of their own and receiving Unemployment Insurance, this extension is excellent news," Secretary Gassman said. "These benefits provide a critical lifeline for workers in Wisconsin and across the country as they get back on their feet during this challenging time for our nation's economy."

President Obama signed into law legislation that continues federal UI extensions through until January 2012 and provides retroactive payments for eligible claimants back to November 30, 2010. Secretary Gassman said DWD will begin processing extension payments tonight in order to ensure that eligible claimants receive their benefits as soon as possible. Secretary Gassman said retroactive payments will be mailed on Monday, December 20.

Claimants should expect to receive payment within 1 to 3 business days after DWD processes their checks. Claimants can confirm that their payments have been made by using the claims inquiry system at the website [www.uclaim-wi.org](http://www.uclaim-wi.org) or 1-800-494-4944. Claimants can see which program (or "tier") they are in by reviewing their most recent UI benefits statement.

### **About the Extension**

Here are key points about the new extension and associated payments:

- The signed legislation does not provide additional weeks of benefits to individuals who had already exhausted all entitlements under previous law. In Wisconsin, claimants are currently eligible for up to 86 weeks of benefits.
- Claimants who are eligible for UI "catch-up" payments may receive more than one check in the next few days. That is because separate checks are required for several reasons, including a requirement that benefits from different programs (Tiers 1-3, Extended Benefits) be paid separately.