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## **NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT LAW PROJECT STATEMENT ON JUNE EMPLOYMENT REPORT**

**Christine Owens, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project**

“Today’s Labor Department report indicated again the how recovery continues to elude the job market, as firms shed an astonishing 467,000 jobs in June alone. These negative trends in the job market continued in June and will be with us for many months to come. The nation’s jobless rate climbed to a soaring 9.5%, the highest rate seen since August 1983.

“The job situation is especially catastrophic for 4.4 million long-term unemployed, as both the sheer number of long-term jobless and the percentage of workers who are out of work for six months (29.0%) have reached an all time highs. The average length of unemployment has surged to 24.5 weeks, as the 2008-9 recession is sure to go down in history as the longest in the post-war period.

“The jobs recession has reached extreme levels, and Washington needs to be prepared to deliver added support to families struggling on main streets across the nation. While Congress and the Administration deserve credit for the serious support delivered through the stimulus bill, more aid will be needed given the unprecedented jobs slowdown and the difficulties facing jobless families today. The extreme nature of long-term unemployment is straining the jobless benefits system,” said Christine L. Owens, Executive Director of the National Employment Law Project.

In a separate report, the Labor Department recently reported that an all time high of 49.2% of workers reach the end of their six months of state jobless benefits without finding work. Up until now, most long-term unemployed workers have been able to survive on extensions of benefits provided through the stimulus bill—the length of which is determined by a state’s unemployment rate and its state law.

“Starting this month, significant numbers of workers will reach the end of these extensions, with the numbers growing significantly in August and September to many hundreds of thousands,” said Owens.

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