



**STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS MENINO,
PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,
ON FUNDING TO ASSIST DISLOCATED WORKERS**

July 18, 2002

“The nation’s mayors are outraged by action taken last night by top appropriators to cut \$400 million in assistance for dislocated workers from the supplemental spending bill. These funds help workers who have lost their jobs find their way back to work or provide them with the additional skills they may need to succeed in a new job.

“With record layoffs and an unemployment rate of 5.9 percent nationally and as high as 13 percent in some metropolitan areas, it is unconscionable for Congress to balance the budget on the back of America’s unemployed workers in their hour of need.

“The supplemental funds for dislocated workers were wisely proposed by the President and passed by the Senate and the House to help the rising number of laid-off workers. On behalf of the nation’s mayors and the nation’s workers, I have written to the conferees to urge them to reverse this shortsighted and unfair decision.”

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information.

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