

**WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) released the following statement today after the Department of Labor announced unemployment numbers for the month of February:**

“Any month in which the economy doesn't create jobs is a disappointment. But today it's clear that, thanks to the policies adopted by President Obama and the Congress, job losses are slowing to a halt. A year ago, America shed more than 700,000 jobs in February; this February, we lost 36,000. It's widely acknowledged that this number would have been better except for the snowstorms that hit the Northeast last month.

“Nevertheless, millions of Americans remain out of work, and Congress will continue to focus on creating jobs. We are past the stage of large reductions in jobs-now, we need to encourage employers to begin hiring. One of the most effective ways to do so, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, is creating a payroll tax credit for employers who hire new workers. The [bipartisan HIRE Act](#), passed by the House yesterday, creates just such a tax credit, while continuing the job-creating projects that put Americans to work building much-needed roads, bridges, and more. I hope that the Senate will quickly move to final passage of the HIRE Act and send it to President Obama's desk.”

[Click here to read about Democratic efforts to create jobs.](#)

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