WASHINGTON, DC – House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement after the Department of Labor announced unemployment numbers for the month of July: “Today’s numbers are a sign that the Recovery Act is beginning to take hold and have a real effect across the nation. We are encouraged that July had the fewest jobs lost in a year, and the unemployment rate dropped slightly. The Recovery Act accomplished the first part of its objective – to stop the freefall – and we are hopeful that the economy will continue in the right direction as more investment is released. “Despite this better than expected news, these numbers remain too high. The road to recovery is a long one, and as economists note, the last thing to rebound after a recession is jobs. As Recovery funds continue to go out this Fall, we will continue to assist families who need help getting back on their feet.” ###