

We're a couple months into 2010, and it's clear that Washington's agenda continues to revolve around economic recovery and job creation.

Following House passage of a comprehensive jobs bill in December 2009, the Senate passed scaled-back legislation in February. Congress is waiting to see how those two bills are combined, but Senate leaders have said they will move forward on more bills to address job creation as we move forward.

I believe the House bill was a good piece of legislation, and I was proud to vote for it. That bill combined a strong job-creation component, dedication billions of dollars to infrastructure projects and other vital programs with extensions of key initiatives to help out-of-work Americans including unemployment insurance and COBRA subsidies.

I think we're seeing results of the programs that were put in place last year. In the beginning of 2009, the country was losing 1 million jobs a month. Now, with the economic stimulus bill at full speed, jobs losses are down to just about zero. The turnaround is still a work in progress, but we've seen some very fast results to address the recession.

The Congressional Budget Office recently reported that the stimulus bill resulted in up to 2.1 million jobs by the end of 2009, and added between 1.5 to 3.5 percentage points to the growth of the economy.

Experts admit that a full economic recovery will take a long time, and unfortunately jobs are often one of the last indicators to make a comeback. But if Congress succeeds in its current efforts, I think we'll see the economy continue its path to recovery pick in 2010.

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