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****EMPLOYMENT LAW ALERT****

By: S. Whitney Rahman

On March 2, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Temporary Extension Act of 2010, which extended several federal programs. Among these are the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, which has been extended until September 4, 2010, and the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, which has been extended until April 5, 2010.

The Temporary Extension Act of 2010 also extended the COBRA subsidy provisions, which provide that certain individuals losing their jobs would only need to pay 35% of their COBRA premium amounts for a period of up to 15 months. This provision was intended to be for a limited period of time only. The new law extends the period in which individuals may take advantage of the subsidy through March 31, 2010, and is retroactive. It also broadened the type of individuals eligible to take advantage of the subsidy by redefining the term "premium assistance eligible individual" and treating as a qualifying event for COBRA coverage the involuntary termination of employment (after the enactment of the Temporary Extension Act) of any qualified beneficiary who either did not make, or who made, but discontinued, an election of COBRA coverage on the basis of a reduction of hours of employment.

If you have any questions about this Act, or any other employment or labor law problems, please call Whitney Rahman or John Roland at 610-372-5588.