

This past Monday celebrations across our nation were held to mark Martin Luther King, Jr. day. I heard stories of his life and death on the television and on radio. It was suggested that if Martin were alive today he would be addressing economic issues. This Tuesday President Obama's second state of the Union address will focus on the economy. In a break with tradition Democrats and Republicans will sit next to each other rather than on opposite sides of the room when they listen to Obama's speech.

With unemployment at 9 per cent we can only hope that our congressional representatives stand together during the coming year to provide for the welfare of all Americans. One opportunity they have is House Resolution 4812, the Local Jobs for America Act, which is expected to create up to one million jobs in our countries neediest communities.

Go to [Thomas.gov](http://Thomas.gov) on the Library of Congress website for more information and then contact your local representative to ask for their support. For those of us in the 14<sup>th</sup> District that is Randy Hultgren.