

**Bakersfield, CA** – Today, Congressman Kevin McCarthy issued the following statement after the U.S. Department of Labor announced unemployment for California in December at a continued double-digit rate of 12.4%.

“As unemployment is still at double-digit levels and the Democratic-controlled Congress continues to put forward policies disconnected with the problems facing our country, the time is now for us to scrap the old Washington spending ways and consider new solutions that create jobs. That is why my colleagues and I continue to push for Congress to pass job creating solutions that will produce a more favorable economic environment and help America’s small businesses grow.

“However, Democratic leaders continue to focus on two competing health care bills that would cost us over a trillion dollars, ignore legislation that would help fix the man-made drought in our communities, and propose raising our nation’s debt limit by almost \$2 trillion, after Congress just raised the debt limit by \$290 billion last month.

“Californians know all too well that massive taxing and spend policies do not grow jobs. Right now we should be thinking of our children’s future by focusing on common-sense solutions that limit government growth, freeze spending and allow America’s timeless entrepreneurial spirit to thrive.”