

Washington, D.C. – Congressman André Carson released the following statement today after the Department of Labor reported that employers eliminated 51,000 jobs in July, the seventh consecutive contraction in the labor market. In July, the unemployment rate rose to 5.7 percent from 5.5 percent in June, its highest level since March 2004.

“With our nation’s unemployment statistics rising at an alarmingly fast rate, it is imperative that President Bush and Congressional Republicans work with House and Senate Democrats in supporting another economic stimulus package that will create jobs and boost our slowing economy. With record high gas prices and soaring jobless rates, working families are in need of immediate and comprehensive economic assistance.

“For months, I and other Democrats have been calling on President Bush and Congressional Republicans to support legislation that will immediately fund the current multibillion dollar short-fall that exists in the highway trust fund. Fully funding our highway trust fund will create jobs, repair our nation’s aging infrastructure and improve our declining economy. Furthermore, it is imperative that Republicans work with Democrats in a bipartisan fashion in pushing through an all-inclusive economic recovery package that moves our receding economy in a more progressive direction.

“Today’s jobless numbers serve as a very clear indicator that Americans are in need of urgent economic assistance that will create jobs, combat unemployment, increase wages and enhance our nation’s economic productivity.”