Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) issued the following statement today after the Department of Labor reported that the nation's unemployment rate fell to 9.4 percent in December. December marked the 20th consecutive month that unemployment has topped nine percent, the longest stretch on record.

"With unemployment above nine percent for the 20th consecutive month, and much higher in Florida, the American people know the status quo is not working," Rooney said. "While any growth in jobs over the last month is a positive step, the failures of the last two years have proven that the government does not create jobs, small businesses do.

"We need to get the federal government out of the way so our small business owners and entrepreneurs can do what they do best – innovate, grow and create new jobs. Cutting wasteful government spending, eliminating costly regulations, and reducing job-killing taxes and mandates are critical to getting our economy back on the right track and helping Americans get back to work."

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