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## Rod Blum says Government Plays Games with Unemployment Rate Statistics

When the nation's unemployment rate dropped from 9% to 8.6% this month, Dubuque businessman Rod Blum said the "real" unemployment numbers are more alarming. Blum is a candidate for the Republican nomination to Congress from Iowa's new First District.

"Some in Washington DC breathed a sigh of relief when the official unemployment rate dropped. But much of that drop was 315,000 Americans who have given up looking for a job," Blum said, noting since 2007, the percent of the population that either has a job or is actively looking for one has fallen from 62.7 percent to 58.5 percent. "That's millions of workers leaving the workforce, and it's not because they've become sick or old. It's because they can't find a job or they are satisfied being unemployed and receiving government benefits. If 62.7 percent of the country was still counted as being in the workforce, the official unemployment rate would be 11 percent."

"Furthermore, if we include those Americans who are working part-time but desired full-time employment and those who are marginally attached workers, the real unemployment rate is closer to 16 percent," Blum added.

"Only detached politicians in Washington DC would welcome this news," Blum said. "Bruce Braley's only answer is to continue prolonging people's dependency on the federal government. Braley's policies are treating the symptoms of the disease instead of curing the disease -- which is our poor economy."

Blum said the real tragedy in the unemployment numbers is what it says about Americans' optimism about the future of this country. "I believe there is a dignity in work, and a feeling of self worth, accomplishment and pride in working as hard as you can to do the best job that you can," Blum said. "It's just plain wrong that Bruce Braley, Nancy Pelosi and President Obama fail to address the real issue of a struggling economy."