

November 9, 2012

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The undersigned, representing 146 national organizations, understand the urgent budget decisions we face as a nation over the next few months. As you work to craft a resolution to these economic and fiscal challenges, we urge you to embrace the call of the American people to focus on job creation and avoid any actions that would cost jobs; oppose benefit cuts for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; protect our nation's safety net; and oppose any extension of the Bush tax cuts for the richest 2 percent of Americans.

Despite some important steps, the economy still has a long way to go to achieve a full recovery. More than 20 million people are in need of full-time work, and unemployment continues to hover around 8 percent. Given the current state of the economy, we have serious concerns that many of the proposals under consideration would require substantial reductions in federal investments, removing even more money from the economy and burdening many of the same working families that have already borne the brunt of our nation's deficit reduction efforts.

With these pressing concerns in mind, we urge that any budget agreement adopted must include:

**Creating jobs and growing the economy.** While our economy is still struggling, we urge you to prioritize job creation and economic growth in any agreement adopted. It must include steps to spur private investment and to create targeted investments in infrastructure and education that will grow the economy and create quality jobs. There are proposals available to that end, including the American Jobs Act. It is imperative that the administration and Congress address this urgent need.

**No cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security benefits or shifting costs to beneficiaries or the states.** Millions of seniors, children, people with disabilities, and others, depend on these vital programs and they must not be cut. They are a cornerstone of our nation's health care and retirement systems, and a promise made to future generations.

**No cuts to the safety net and vital services for low-income people.** We should not allow the fiscal burden to be shifted to poor and working families who have already borne a disproportionate share of the nation's economic pain in recent years.

**Stopping the sequester.** We share the concerns of economists, small business owners, state and local governments, and the millions of individuals we represent, that sequestration will harm our fragile recovery, will result in a substantial loss of jobs in both the public and private sectors, and will make harmful cuts in vital services needed to promote health, development, and economic security for people and communities nationwide that have already sustained \$1.5 trillion in

deficit reduction losses. We urge Congress to stop the sequester with a responsible solution that includes new revenue.

**Requiring the wealthiest and corporations to pay their fair share, starting with ending tax cuts for the wealthiest 2 percent.** We urge you to allow tax cuts that benefit only the richest 2 percent to expire on schedule, which would save nearly \$1 trillion in revenues and reduced interest payments. While a wide range of programs have been cut in recent years, the very wealthy and corporations have so far not been required to contribute a penny in additional revenues toward deficit reduction. Securing substantial new revenue from those with the greatest ability to contribute will allow us to meet deficit reduction goals, chart a more sustainable fiscal path forward, invest in the job creation measures our economy needs, and protect the programs and services that families depend upon.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Nancy Zirkin, The Leadership Conference at (202) 263-2880, [zirkin@civilrights.org](mailto:zirkin@civilrights.org); Kelly Ross, AFL-CIO, at 202-637-5075, [Kross@aflcio.org](mailto:Kross@aflcio.org); or Debbie Weinstein, Coalition on Human Needs, at 202-223-2532, [dweinstein@chn.org](mailto:dweinstein@chn.org), if you have any questions.

9to5, National Association of Working Women  
AFGE National Council of SSA Field Operations Locals  
AFL-CIO  
African American Health Alliance  
African American Ministers in Action  
AFSCME  
AIDS United  
Alliance for a Just Society  
Alliance for Children and Families  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU)  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
American Association for Affirmative Action  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Family Voices  
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)  
American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA), AFL-CIO  
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO  
American Medical Student Association (AMSA)  
Americans for Financial Reform (AFR)  
The Arc of the U.S.  
Asian American Justice Center, member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice  
Asian Law Alliance  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)  
Black Leadership Forum  
Campaign for America's Future

Caring Across Generations  
Center for Community Change  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Women Policy Studies  
The Children's Defense Fund  
The Children's Leadership Council  
Cities For Progress, Institute for Policy Studies  
The City Project  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO  
Community Organizations in Action  
Consumer Action  
Compassion & Choices  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Courage Campaign  
Democrats for Education Reform  
Demos  
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO  
Developing Communities Project  
Direct Care Alliance  
Disability Policy Consortium  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Early Childhood Policy Research  
Education Reform Now  
The Education Trust  
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.  
The Equal Justice Society  
Every Child Matters Education Fund  
Family Values @ Work  
Farmworker Justice  
First Five Years Fund  
Gamaliel  
Green for All  
Half in Ten  
Health Care for America Now  
Healthy Teen Network  
Heartland Alliance  
Hmong National Development, Inc.  
Institute of Social Medicine & Community Health  
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers, and  
Helpers, AFL-CIO  
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of  
America, UAW  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Labor Project for Working Families

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
Legal Aid Society –Employment Law Center  
Legal Momentum  
Main Street Alliance  
Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association  
Medicare Rights Center  
MoveOn.org  
NAACP  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National American Indian Housing Council  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Letter Carriers  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Child Development Institute  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO)  
The National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA)  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Federation of Federal Employees  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Health Law Program  
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
National Indian Health Board  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National People's Action  
National Transitional Jobs Network  
National Women's Law Center  
National Women's Health Network  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
OMB Watch  
Partnership for Working Families

People For the American Way  
PolicyLink  
Poverty & Race Research Action Council  
Pride at Work, AFL-CIO  
Public Advocates Inc.  
Public Education Network  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition  
Rebuild the Dream  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sisters of Mercy Institute Justice Team  
SMART - Sheet Metal Air Rail & Transportation Association  
Social Security Works  
Strengthen Social Security Coalition  
Strong Families Initiative  
Tradeswomen Now and Tomorrow  
Transportation Learning Center  
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Methodist Women  
United Neighborhood Centers of America  
United Steelworkers International Union  
USAction  
Voices for America's Children  
Wider Opportunities for Women  
Working America  
Young Elected Officials Network  
Young People For  
YWCA USA