**NATIONAL COALITION ON WOMEN, JOBS AND JOB TRAINING**

March 8, 2011

To Senators and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

As you consider appropriations for the remainder of fiscal year 2011 and other budget issues in the weeks ahead, we the undersigned organizations urge you to maintain funding for programs that employ large numbers of women, enable them to develop their job skills and assist them in managing work and family responsibilities. Please oppose H.R.1 and future proposals containing cuts in areas discussed below.

Today, women are integral to the economy and the economic security of their families. About half of all women over age 16 are in the labor force. Nearly 4 in 10 mothers are primary breadwinners, bringing home the majority of their families' earnings.[1] While women lost jobs at a slower rate than men during the recession, they are re-gaining them at a slower rate as well. Particularly hard hit have been women whose families depend on their earnings for support. In January, the unemployment rate of women who maintain families was 12.7% in contrast to the national rate of 9.0%. The numbers were even higher for African American and Hispanic women who maintain families.

The $61 billion in cuts contained in the House-passed continuing resolution, H.R. 1, will have a devastating effect on women and their families:

- Hundreds of thousands of jobs will be lost in public and nonprofit human service agencies where women are considerably more than half of the workforce -- teachers, nurses, social workers, office workers and others. For example, an estimated 72,000 teachers, teacher aides, after school program aides and related personnel could lose their jobs as a result of cuts to Head Start, special education (IDEA) and schools in poor communities (Title I of ESEA).[2] Cuts in Community Health Centers will cost an estimated 7,434 jobs.[3]
- Unemployed and low-income working women will lose education and training services provided through 3,000 one-stop career centers funded by Workforce Investment Act formula grants for adult, youth and dislocated worker programs. The continuing resolution's cut of $3.8 billion to workforce programs means funds will stop flowing at the start of the program year that begins July 1, 2011.[4] The publicly funded workforce system served 8 million people and placed 54% of adults and 58% of youth in jobs last year.[5] These programs offer women a means to economic security by providing credentials for skilled jobs in higher paying fields where they are a small fraction of the workforce. One in three large industrial firms surveyed in 2009 reported serious to moderate shortages of skilled workers.[6]

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[1] The Shriver Report, http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/pdf/awn/a_womans_nation.pdf
[2] http://georgemiller.house.gov/2011/02/gop-spending-bill-puts-working-families-futures-at-risk.shtml
[3] http://www.nachc.com/client/Immediate%20Impact%20of%20Federal%20Funding%20Cuts%20to%20Health%20Centers_updated.pdf
[4] http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/homepage-archive/documents/jff_hr1_letter_2011-02-16.pdf
[5] http://www.nawdp.org/Content/NavigationMenu/CelebrateWorkforceDevelopmentProfessionalsMonth/NAWB_factsheet.pdf
[6] http://www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-UnitedStates/Local%20Assets/Documents/us_pip_peoplemanagementreport_100509.pdf

- Other workforce programs whose funds are eliminated, or nearly eliminated, include the Senior Community Service Employment Program (-$525 million); Tech Prep state grants under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (-$102.9 million); Dislocated Worker National Reserve and Emergency Grants (-$175 million); Career Pathways Innovation Fund for training in health fields (- $125 million); the Green Jobs Innovation Fund,(-$40 million affecting 6,000 workers); Reintegration of Ex-Offenders (-$108.5 million); Job Corps (-$300 million) and YouthBuild (-$102 million).
- Paid and unpaid work experience, along with the volunteer labor for community and nonprofit programs, will be terminated through cuts to AmeriCorps, 80,000 positions; VISTA, 8,000 positions.[7]
- Low-income women attending college or community college will face higher tuition costs with the bill's reduction of the maximum Pell grant by $845 from the current $5,550.
- Cuts in other programs, such as child care and health care, will make it more costly, if not impossible, for women who do have jobs to continue working. The CR's cuts to Head Start, Early Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant will cause an estimated 368,000 children to lose services and other families to face higher costs.[8] Elimination of family planning and teen pregnancy prevention programs may cause adults and young women to have to discontinue their employment or education due to unplanned pregnancies or the birth of a child.
- The CR fails to fund the President's request for state paid leave demonstration programs for workers who need time off due to their own or family illness.

We believe that the national debt needs to be curbed in a balanced manner that begins with putting people back to work and paying equitable taxes. Deficit reduction in the long term must not be focused on non-defense discretionary programs, or one-twelfth of the entire budget, as in the House-passed resolution.

We urge you to reject cuts that hurt women who are working, or seeking employment, in order to support their families and to provide for their own secure retirement. For information, contact Susan Rees, Wider Opportunities for Women, srees@wowonline.org. 202-464-1596.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women
9to5 Atlanta
9to5 Bay Area
9to5 Colorado
9to5 Milwaukee
9to5 Los Angeles
A Minnesota Without Poverty
Alliance for Multicultural Community Services
American Association of University Women
ASSIST Agency
Association for Career and Technical Education

[7] http://georgemiller.house.gov/2011/02/gop-spending-bill-puts-working-families-futures-at-risk.shtml
[8] http://www.chn.org/pdf/2011/BetterBudget4AllReport.pdf

Asian American Justice Center
Audubon Area Head Start
Barrier Free Living Family of Companies
Bright Harp Family Estates
California National Organization for Women
Career Resources, Inc.
Caring Economics Campaign of the Center for Partnership Studies
Caruthers Street Charities, Inc. dba Project HOPE
Center for Children's Initiatives (CCI)
Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for People in Need
Chicago Childcare Society
Childspace Cooperative Development, Inc.
Cities for Progress at The Institute for Policy Studies
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Coalition on Human Needs
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Community Action Partnership
Community Action Partnership of Lake County
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo Co., Inc.
Community Organizing Center (Columbus, Ohio)
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development
Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy
Council for Opportunity in Education
Covenant Homeless Family Shelter
CWA Local 1081
Disciples Justice Action Network
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Eagles Passage Therapeutic Farm, LLC
Early Educators' Network
Face to Face Enrichment Center
Family and Childrens First Council
Family Connection of Easton, Inc.
Family, Mother, Child Charity/New2Need
Family Services of Greater Waterbury, Inc.
Federally Employed Women
First Congregational Church of San Francisco, UCC
First Focus Campaign for Children
Flint Area Specialized Employment Services
Fort Mojave Indian Tribe Domestic Violence Program
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy
Grassroots 4 Change
Hard Hatted Women
Healthy Teen Network

Hendry County Social Services
IDA and Asset-Building Collaborative of North Carolina
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Influencing State Policy
JobsNow
Just Harvest
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities
Kansas Association of Community Action Programs
Keep Empower Youth Achievement Charter School
Keys Lobbying and Consulting, LLC
Legal Momentum
LIFETIME: Low-Income Families' Empowerment through Education
Lincoln Mental Health
Litchfield's Early Childhood Programs
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Middle Way House, Inc. (Bloomington, IN)
Minnesota Head Start Association, Inc.
Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities
Missouri Association for Community Action
MomsRising
Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, Inc.
NASW Washington State
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Association of Child Care
National Association of Mothers' Centers
National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
National Council for Workforce Education
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Employment Law Project
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund
National Latina Health Network
National Network for Youth
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Skills Coalition
National Women's Conference Committee
National Women's Law Center
Neo-Elite Village Day School
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
PHI – Quality Care through Quality Jobs
PolicyLink

Poor People's Alliance
Project Single Moms Worldwide, Inc.
Prosperity Works
Providence Connections
RESULTS, Central NJ Domestic Chapter
River to Coast Children's Services
Rooftop of Virginia CAP
ROSE Community Development
Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
SCIFL, AFL-CIO
Single Stop USA
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Central Leadership
Stone Soup Leadership Institute
Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community, Leadership Team
St. Matthew's Justice & Human Concerns Committee
The Emily Program
The Lula McGrady Foundation, Inc.
TR Harris Community Development Center
UCAN Confidence Clinic
United Methodist Women
Voices for Progress
Wabash Area Development, Inc.
West Suburban Jobs Council
WhyHunger
Wider Opportunities for Women
Willis Center
Wilson Resource Center (WRC)
Witnesses to Hunger (Philadelphia, PA)
Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania
Women Empowered Against Violence
Women of Color Policy Network, NYU Wagner
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER)
Women's Center (Danbury, CT)
Women’s Divorce Support Group of New Jersey
Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis
Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)
Working Poor Families Project
WV Citizen Action Group
YWCA Binghamton and Broome County
YWCA Central Alabama
YWCA Fort Worth & Tarrant County
YWCA of the Greater Capital Region, Inc.
YWCA Hartford Region
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
YWCA Rockford

YWCA Seattle
YWCAs of the Northeast Region
YWCA of Greater Cincinnati
YWCA of Greater Milwaukee
YWCA NorthEastern NY