



April 21, 2008

Senator Norm Coleman
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coleman:

As the Congress works out a compromise between the House- and Senate-passed budget resolutions, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the organizations signing this letter **urge you to support the higher figures for overall non-defense domestic discretionary spending for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.**

We have watched with dismay in recent years as Congress' ability to adequately fund urgently needed investments has been constrained, limiting our ability to fund vital services that make a real impact on Minnesota's quality of life.

Contrary to claims by the administration, there has not been a rapid rise in funding for non-defense domestic discretionary programs. In fact, many of these areas have endured sizeable cuts over the past seven years. As a result, domestic discretionary spending excluding homeland security is a smaller share of the economy in 2008 than in 2001, and is at one of the lowest levels in decades.

Minnesotans expect Congress to make progress in addressing domestic priorities through a federal budget that reflects Minnesota values.

We believe that people should have access to the health care services they need to lead healthy and productive lives. We believe that providing access to quality education from early childhood through college is critical to the economic future of both Minnesota and the nation.

We believe in ensuring that families can move out of poverty by accessing education, training and child care assistance so that work pays. We believe that all people should have access to affordable housing.

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We believe that protecting our lakes, rivers, streams and air is essential to preserving the quality of life across our state. We believe in safe and vibrant communities. We believe in protecting and sharing our cultural and artistic assets.

We believe we have an obligation to serve the needs of our most vulnerable citizens, including people with disabilities, children and seniors. We believe that it is unacceptable for anyone to suffer from hunger or malnutrition.

We are pleased that both the Senate and House-passed budget resolutions reject the President's budget proposal for \$20.5 billion in funding cuts for domestic discretionary programs outside of homeland security. The House budget resolution provides a larger increase in funding for non-defense domestic discretionary spending in fiscal year 2009. The Senate budget resolution adds several billion more in fiscal year 2010 than does the House budget resolution for advance appropriations to meet domestic priorities. Therefore, we ask that you support the highest combined amount for non-defense domestic discretionary spending in both fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2010.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Francisco at 651-642-1904 ext. 232 or email steve@mncn.org.

Sincerely,



Steve Francisco
Federal Policy Director
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

On behalf of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the following organizations:

A + Home Care, Inc, Bloomington	Consulting, Minneapolis
Access Press, St. Paul	Domestic Abuse Project, Minneapolis
Action through Churches Together, Grand Rapids	Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Affirmative Options Coalition	Duluth Plant-a-Lot Community Garden Program
African Community Services, Minneapolis	Elim Transitional Housing, Inc., Minneapolis
Alexandra House, Inc., Blaine	Emergency Foodshelf Network, New Hope
Alliance Housing, Minneapolis	Families Moving Forward, Minneapolis
American Oromo Community of Minnesota	Family & Children's Services, Minneapolis
Anrias, Inc., Edina	Family Life Mental Health Center, Coon Rapids
Children's Defense Fund – Minnesota	Friends Against Abuse, International Falls
Clearwater DAC, Bagley	Friends for a Non-Violent World, St. Paul
Community Action Duluth	Glesener's Inc., Bird Island
Cornerstone, Bloomington	Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota
Crossways International, Minneapolis	Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation, St. Paul
Damiano Center of Duluth	Growth & Justice
Debbie Okerlund Non-Profit Coaching and	Guardian Angels Catholic Church, Oakdale

Hastings Family Service
Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc.,
Willmar
Helping Paws Inc, Hopkins
HOME Line, Minneapolis
Houston County Women's Resources
Intercongregation Communities Association
(ICA), Minnetonka
Jackson Housing & Redevelopment Authority
Jewish Community Action
Jewish Community Center of the Greater St.
Paul Area
Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau, Forest Lake
Legal Services Advocacy Project
Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy
in MN – ELCA
Metro Work Center, Inc, Minneapolis
Midwest Art Conservation Center
Midwest Health Center for Women
Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council
Minnesota AIDS Project
Minnesota Community Action Partnership
Minnesota Department of Employment and
Economic Development
Minnesota Elementary School Principals'
Association
Minnesota Housing Partnership
Minnesota Organization on Adolescent
Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting
Minnesota Workforce Council Association
Minnesota Youth Intervention Programs
Association
National Association of Social Workers -
Minnesota Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women Minnesota
Neighbors, Inc, South St. Paul
Northwest Youth & Family Services, Shoreview

Office for Social Justice - Catholic Charities
Options, Inc., Big Lake
People Serving People, Inc., Minneapolis
Pine Island Area Home Services
Prairie Five Community Action Council, Inc.,
Montevideo
Ready 4 K
Residents for Affordable Housing, Minneapolis
Resource, Inc.
River Valley Action, Mahtomedi
Sabathani Community Center, Minneapolis
Shelter House, Willmar
Simpson Housing Services, Minneapolis
South St. Paul Restorative Justice Council
Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council,
Worthington
Southwestern Center for Independent Living,
Marshall
St. David's Child Development and Family
Services, Minnetonka
St. Stephens Human Services, Minneapolis
Store To Door, St. Paul
Ten Directions School, Minneapolis
The Arc of Minnesota
The Center for Victims of Torture
Theatre Unbound, Minneapolis
Therapeutic Services Agency, Pine City
Three Rivers Community Action, Inc., Zumbrota
Touchstone Mental Health, Minneapolis
United Way of Faribault, Inc.
VSA Arts of Minnesota
WCI JobLink, Willmar
Winona ORC Industries, Inc.
Women's Health Center of Duluth
YouthCARE, Minneapolis
YWCA of Minneapolis