



April 30, 2007

Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
U.S. Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

On behalf of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the organizations signing this letter below, we wish to express our support for passage of a strong budget conference report for Fiscal Year 2008.

Minnesotans believe in providing a quality education to our young people from early childhood through college. We believe that our seniors should have access to the health care services they need. We believe that there should be adequate affordable housing available in all of our communities. We believe that our environment should be safe and clean. We believe that it is unacceptable for anyone in our state to suffer from hunger or malnutrition. **Minnesotans expect Congress to make progress in meeting these goals.** The budget conference report which you will soon consider represents an important step in moving our country away from growing budget deficits and toward sound investments in our people and our communities.

Specifically, we urge you to work to ensure that the following provisions are included in the final budget conference report:

- ? **Support the House level of non-defense discretionary funding for fiscal year 2008.** The House budget resolution provides an increase of \$14 billion for non-defense discretionary programs, a 3.3 percent increase over the 2007 level adjusted for inflation. The Senate budget resolution provides only an additional \$8 billion, a 1.9 percent increase. Non-defense programs have been cut for the past three consecutive years. The higher House figure is needed to begin addressing urgent priorities in health care, education, nutrition, housing, environmental protection, and more. If the total amount available for non-defense domestic discretionary spending is set too low in the conference report, it will not be possible to make progress in addressing these issues.
- ? **Support the House version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reserve fund.** Both the House and Senate budget resolutions include a \$50 billion deficit-neutral reserve fund. However, the Senate budget resolution includes a provision that requires that increases in funding for SCHIP must come from other entitlement programs, like Medicare, rather than from revenues. We support the goal of increasing funding for

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SCHIP, which is an important tool for providing health care coverage to Minnesotans. But the budget resolution should allow for flexibility in how the \$50 billion for SCHIP will be offset, through either additional revenues or spending cuts.

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

Access of the Red River Valley, Moorhead  
Affirmative Options Coalition, St. Paul  
African American Family Services, Minneapolis  
Alexandra House, Inc., Blaine  
Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, Minneapolis  
Bear Creek Service, Rochester  
Breaking Free, St. Paul  
Cornerstone Advocacy Service, Bloomington  
Courage Center, Minneapolis  
Dads Make a Difference, St. Paul  
Dakota Woodlands, Eagan  
Damiano Center, Duluth  
Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, Moorhead  
Duluth Adult Learning Center, Duluth  
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota  
 Fargo-Moorhead Dorothy Day House of Hospitality  
Fraser, Richfield  
Girl Scout Council of Greater Minneapolis  
Glesener's, Inc., Bird Island  
Guild Incorporated, West St. Paul  
Hastings Family Service  
HOME Line, Minneapolis  
Home of the Good Shepherd/Rose Center  
    Transitional Housing, St. Paul  
Hope House of St. Croix Valley  
Intercongregation Communities Association,  
    Minnetonka  
Jewish Community Action  
JOBS NOW Coalition  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Duluth  
Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council  
Minnesota Citizens for Tax Justice  
Minnesota Community Action Partnership  
Minnesota Council of Child Caring Agencies

Minnesota Housing Partnership  
Minnesota Social Service Association  
Minnesota Valley Action Council, Mankato  
National Association of Social Workers – Minnesota  
    Chapter  
Neighbors, Inc., South St. Paul  
Northwest Community Action, Inc., Badger  
Northwest Youth & Family Services, Shoreview  
Pax Christi St. Cloud  
Project for Pride in Living, Minneapolis  
Residents for Affordable Housing, Minneapolis  
RESOURCE, Inc., Minneapolis  
Riverton Community Housing, Minneapolis  
Sandweiss & Associates, Minneapolis  
Southside Family School, Minneapolis  
Therapeutic Services Agency, Pine City  
Twin Cities Area Chapter of ACES  
West Central Industries, Inc., Willmar  
Women's Foundation of Minnesota  
YWCA of Minneapolis