

April 21, 2009

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
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 the adoption of a Congressional budget resolution conference report that addresses the urgent needs of Minnesota families and communities in this time of severe economic upheaval. Minnesotans expect our federal government to work as a partner with our state and local governments, the nonprofit sector, the business community and Minnesota residents in building a state with a high quality of life for all of our people.

In the Minnesota we envision,

- Low-income families can find affordable housing and we can eliminate homelessness in our communities.
- During this period of economic turmoil, the resources that help people meet their essential needs and move out of crisis and poverty are provided.
- Minnesotans have a quality education from preschool to K-12 to higher education.
- We preserve the quality of the water we drink and the air we breathe.
- Our most vulnerable citizens, including people with disabilities and seniors, can live in dignity and are well cared for.

To achieve these ends, we urge you to adopt a budget conference agreement that includes the following policy goals:

- **Support adequate funding for non-defense domestic discretionary priorities.** President Obama has proposed an increase in domestic discretionary spending of 7.1 percent over 2009 levels. This is a reasonable increase in funding for services that make a real difference in our communities. Domestic discretionary funding is not the cause of our nation's long-term fiscal imbalance. Indeed, while funding for defense and homeland security has grown substantially in recent years, domestic discretionary spending has grown much more slowly. According to the Office of Management and Budget, the proposed increase for domestic discretionary spending is only 3.2 percent over 2009 levels when the one-time increases in the President's budget for the 2010 Census and the cost of the FHA loan guarantee program are excluded and inflation and population growth are factored in.

- **Support tax policies that help low- and moderate-income Minnesota families.** The President's budget would make permanent recent improvements in two highly-effective refundable tax credits that help low- and moderate-income families with children. We urge you to make these improvements to the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit permanent.

We understand that Congress will face many tough policy choices in the coming months and years. While we must move to restore fiscal responsibility, we cannot afford to ignore the urgent human needs of our citizens and communities. We hope that you will support a Congressional budget resolution conference agreement that strikes the correct balance.

Sincerely,

Steve Francisco
Federal Policy Director
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

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

Africa Network for Development, Inc., Falcon Heights
African Community Services, Minneapolis
AFSCME Minnesota Council 5, South St. Paul
Albert Lea Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Albert Lea
Alexandra House, Inc., Blaine
American Oromo Community of Minnesota, St. Paul
Becker County Developmental Achievement Center, Detroit Lakes
Brain Injury Association of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Cabrini Partnership, Minneapolis
Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minneapolis
Central Center for Family Resources, Fridley
Children's Defense Fund Minnesota, St. Paul
Chisago County Council for Exceptional Individuals, Inc., Chisago City
Chisago County Senior Center, North Branch
Churches United in Ministry, Duluth
Community Action Center of Northfield, Inc., Northfield
Courage Center, Minneapolis
Dads Make a Difference, St. Paul

Dakota Communities, Eagan
Deer River Hired Hands, Inc., Deer River
Domestic Abuse Project, Minneapolis
Duluth Adult Learning Center, Duluth
Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Duluth
ElderCare Rights Alliance, Bloomington
Family Focus, Austin, Rochester, Minneapolis
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Little Falls
Free to Be, Inc., Blaine
Friendship Ventures, Annandale
Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota, St. Paul
Growth & Justice, St. Paul
Guardian Angels Catholic Church, Oakdale
Guild Incorporated, St. Paul
Hastings Family Service, Hastings
Headwaters Science Center, Bemidji
Healthy Life Coaching, Maple Lake
Hearthstone of Minnesota, South St. Paul
Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc., Willmar
Hmong American Mutual Assistance Association, Minneapolis
Hmong American Partnership, St. Paul
HOME Line, Minneapolis

Housing & Redevelopment Authority of Bemidji, Bemidji
Hunger Solutions Minnesota, St. Paul
Jabbok Family Services, Minneapolis
Jeremiah Program, Minneapolis
Jewish Community Action, St. Paul
JOBS NOW Coalition, St. Paul
Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership, Moorhead
Latino Economic Development Center, Minneapolis
Legal Assistance of Olmsted County, Rochester
Legal Services Advocacy Project, St. Paul
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, St. Paul
Meeker County Emergency Food Shelf, Litchfield
Metro Youth Partnership, Moorhead
Metropolitan Economic Development Association, Minneapolis
Midwest Health Center for Women, Minneapolis
Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation, Detroit Lakes
Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council, Minneapolis
Minnesota AFL-CIO, St. Paul
Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, St. Paul
Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, St. Paul
Minnesota Community Action Partnership, St. Paul
Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, St. Paul
Minnesota Housing Partnership, St. Paul
Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting, St. Paul
Minnesota Workforce Council Association, Association of Minnesota Counties, St. Paul
Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc., St. Paul
National Council of Jewish Women, Minnesota State Public Affairs, Minnetonka
Neighbors, Inc., South St. Paul
Northeast Residence, Inc., Little Canada

Northwestern Health Sciences University, Bloomington
Office for Social Justice - Catholic Charities of St. Paul/Mpls., St. Paul
Outcomes, Inc., Shoreview
Pan-African Community Organization, Minneapolis
Paramount Arts Resource Trust, Inc., St. Cloud
PATH Inc., Minneapolis
Paynseville Community Service Center, Paynseville
Peacemaker Resources, Bemidji
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Minneapolis
Pinewood, Inc., Cloquet
Pro Kinship for Kids, New Ulm
ProWorks, Inc., Litchfield
RCC "Russian Soul", Columbia Heights
Ready 4 K, St. Paul
Rebuild Resources, St. Paul
RESOURCE, Minneapolis
Restart, Inc., Golden Valley
Riverton Community Housing, Minneapolis
Sabathani Community Center, Minneapolis
Sandweiss & Associates, LLC, Minneapolis
Second Harvest Heartland, Maplewood
Service Enterprises, Inc., Redwood Falls
Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass and Hubbard Counties, Bemidji
SHiFT Organization, Minneapolis
South St. Paul Restorative Justice Council, Inc., South St. Paul
Southside Family School, Minneapolis
Southside Services, Inc., Minneapolis
Sunrise Center Against Sexual Abuse, International Falls
The City, Inc., Minneapolis
The Whole Learning School, St. Louis Park
Three Rivers Community Action Project, Zumbrota
Twin Cities Community Voice Mail, St. Paul
Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation, St. Paul
Twin Ports Area Nonprofit Coalition, Duluth
WCI JobLink, Willmar
Willmar Area Food Shelf, Willmar
YWCA of Minneapolis, Minneapolis