

## COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

March 16, 2010

Ms. Kay E. Brown  
Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Ms. Brown:

Thank you for your March 11<sup>th</sup> testimony to the Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support at its hearing on TANF's role in providing assistance to struggling families. In order to complete our hearing record, I would appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. Does the "gap" you find between those who are eligible for TANF and those who actually "participate" in TANF (which generally means collect TANF welfare checks) include some people who are not collecting welfare checks but are getting TANF-funded benefits like bus passes, one-time emergency payments, or even salaries through subsidized employment programs?
  - a. How many people fall into that category of receiving help funded by the TANF program, but not a regular welfare check or other assistance that qualifies them as "participating" in TANF as described in your testimony?
2. Does the definition of "income" you use in your report include key government benefits like food stamps, which have been rapidly rising? How about the EITC, which was one of the work supports expanded in the 1990s and which is an important incentive for families to engage in work over welfare?
  - a. Doesn't the absence of these major cash and near-cash benefits – which are understood as key work supports and whose receipt has been rising – suggest that the data presented in your testimony paints a somewhat incomplete picture of the total resources available to tens of millions of low-income families today?

Committee on Ways and Means Republicans  
Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support  
Page 2  
March 16, 2010

I would appreciate your response to these questions by March 30, 2010. Please send your response to the attention of Matt Weidinger, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, Committee on Ways and Means Republicans, U.S. House of Representatives, B-316 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. In addition to a hard copy, please submit an electronic copy of your response in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format to [Mike.Stober@mail.house.gov](mailto:Mike.Stober@mail.house.gov) and [Moyer.McCoy@mail.house.gov](mailto:Moyer.McCoy@mail.house.gov).

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions for the record. If you have any questions concerning this request, you may reach Matt Weidinger at (202) 225-4021.

Sincerely yours,



John Linder  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Income Security  
and Family Support



Charles Boustany  
Subcommittee on Income Security  
and Family Support



Peter Roskam  
Subcommittee on Income Security  
and Family Support