

April 22, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Chairman Miller:

We, the undersigned Affiliates of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and other Hispanic-serving nonprofit organizations, write to express our support for the “Local Jobs for America Act” (H.R. 4812). This legislation will provide critical funding to states, local governments, and nonprofit community-based organizations to save and create one million jobs in communities throughout the country.

The “Local Jobs for America Act” will keep police officers, firefighters, and teachers on the job, restore critical services that have been cut, and create new jobs to meet local needs. Under this act, workers could be hired to provide a variety of services, from financial counseling to child care and youth programming to community redevelopment. Of particular importance, the bill allots funding to state and local governments, as well as nonprofit community-based organizations like ours, to hire workers in high-unemployment, high-poverty areas.

The “Local Jobs for America Act” is the kind of bold action that NCLR, its Affiliates, leading economists, civil rights organizations, and others have been calling for to create jobs in the hardest-hit communities. Many of these stakeholders have already endorsed Chairman Miller’s bill. The act also has the support of the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Counties.

We have seen the human cost of disparities in unemployment and foreclosure rates between Hispanics and other Americans. In our communities, many Latinos are struggling to find and keep work while putting food on the table and keeping a roof over their heads. We believe that the “Local Jobs for America Act” will go a long way to narrow these gaps by offering employment opportunities to struggling communities. Passing H.R. 4812 would help restore Americans’ confidence in lawmakers’ ability to enact high-impact job creation policies to jump-start local economies.

Thank you for your leadership on tackling the unemployment crisis. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Singley, Policy Analyst, NCLR, at . We look forward to working with you to ensure that the “Local Jobs for America Act” is swiftly enacted.

Sincerely,

Alabama

Legion of Mary

Arizona

Calexico Community Action Council, Inc.

California

Chicano Federation of San Diego County

Community HousingWorks

Comite de Padres Unidos (San Francisco, CA)

Eastmont Community Center

Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA)

Japanese American Citizens League

Latino Community Foundation (San Francisco, CA)

MAAC Project

National Council on Aging

New Economics for Women

SER Jobs for Progress, Inc.

Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation

Colorado

El Comite de Longmont

Connecticut

Connecticut Puerto Rican Forum

Florida

Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.

Hispanic Coalition

Housing and Education Alliance

Latin American Coalition

Latino Community Network

Hawaii

Big Island Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

Iowa

AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy)

Sisters of the Presentation

Illinois

Alivio Medical Center
Casa Guanajuato Quad Cities
Healthy South Chicago
Illinois Latino Resource Institute
Instituto del Progreso Latino
Jobs With Justice

Indiana

La Plaza
St. Monica Catholic Church of Indianapolis

Kansas

Dominican Sisters
El Centro, Inc.
Harvest America Corporation

Massachusetts

United for a Fair Economy
YouthBuild USA

Michigan

Latinos and Supporters Advocating for Justice and Advancement
Southwest Housing

Minnesota

St. Ambrose of Woodbury Social Justice Committee
St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church

Missouri

HoLa

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed
Proyecto Cultural

New Jersey

Casa Freehold
Casa de Esperanza
New Jersey Peace Action

New York

Catholic Charities of New York
Church Women United
Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc.
Coalition for Welfare Rights of NYC

Creative Learning Center
La Fuerza Unida, Inc.
La Union/UCL, Inc.
Pax Christi
Peruvians in Action!
Promesa Systems, Inc.
Ursulines of Tildonk for Justice and Peace

Ohio

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio

Oregon

Center for Working Life
Frente Común Latinos del Norte de Portland
LifeWorks NW

Pennsylvania

Dignity Housing

Puerto Rico

Gadea Ministries, Inc.
Programa de Apoyo y Enlace Comunitario (PAEC)

Rhode Island

The Center for Hispanic Policy and Advocacy (CHisPA)

Texas

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the YWCA (El Paso Del Norte, TX)
Houston Area Urban League
Houston READ Commission
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center
Senior Community Outreach Services
Tejano Center for Community Concerns

Virginia

Head Start of Prince William County Schools
Middle Passage II

Washington, DC

Americans for Financial Reform
Islamic Society of North America

Wisconsin

La Casa de Esperanza, Inc.
School Sisters of St. Francis
Voces de la Frontera

cc: House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor