

July 1, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Majority Whip
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Majority Whip Durbin:

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for the Local Jobs for America Act (S. 3500) which would create a million public and private jobs in local communities. We applaud Senator Sherrod Brown, Senator Al Franken and Senator Mark Begich for the introduction of this critical legislation.

Since the recession began in December 2007, the economy has lost over 8 million jobs, including many providing critical services in communities across the country. The current crisis of unemployment is devastating families all across America. May's unemployment report revealed an overall jobless rate of 9.7 percent; among African-Americans the jobless rate was a staggering 15.5 percent, among Latinos, 12.4 percent, among women who head families, 11.6 percent, and among youth, 26.4 percent.

We need bold Congressional action in order to put Americans back to work and prevent more layoffs and cuts in crucial services. The Local Jobs for America Act will not only provide employment for hundreds of thousands of jobless workers, it will create and save jobs for workers who are providing services that our communities badly need.

The Local Jobs for America Act provides \$100 billion over two years to create or save 750,000 jobs providing local services, and to save 250,000 education jobs. The funding will also keep 5,500 law enforcement officers on the beat, allow localities to hire additional firefighters, and provide on-the-job training slots to help local businesses create employment opportunities. These jobs in turn will put money in the pockets of families, spurring demand in the economy and creating additional private-sector jobs and tax revenues.

Projections of a slow recovery in the labor market underscore the urgent need to create jobs now. As local and national organizations who are witnessing firsthand the current crisis of unemployment and the increased need for services in the face of deep budget cuts, we believe that a bold response cannot wait.

We support quick passage of the Local Jobs for America Act to immediately put Americans back to work, in addition to meeting pressing needs in our communities.

Respectfully,

National and Regional Organizations

9to5 National Association of Working Women
Adrian Dominican Sisters
Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
African American Ministers in Action
Alliance for Children and Families
Alliance for Disabled in Action
American Association of University Women
American Community Partnership
American Federation of Government Employees
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee
American Rights at Work
Americans for Democratic Action, Inc
America's Promise Alliance
Asian American Justice Center
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Augustinians, Province of St. Thomas of Villanova
Campaign for America's Future
Campaign for Community Change
Center for American Progress Action Fund
Center for Law and Social Policy
Change to Win
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Coalition on Human Needs
Committee of Interns and Residents/Service Employees International Union
Communications Workers of America District 1
Community Action Partnership
Community Organizations in Action
Corps Network
Demos
Direct Care Alliance
Disciples Justice Action Network
Dominican Sisters- Grand Rapids
Drum Major Institute for Public Policy
Economic Opportunity Institute

Economic Policy Institute
Employee Rights Advocacy Institute For Law and Policy
Enterprise Community Partners
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research and Action Center
Franciscan Action Network
Global Justice Ministry, Metropolitan Community Churches
Green for All
Half in Ten
Insight Center for Community Economic Development
Interfaith Worker Justice
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Labor Committee
Jobs with Justice
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Leadership Team, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Main Street Alliance
Mindspring Coaching
MomsRising
Ms. Foundation for Women
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Association of Social Workers
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Council of Negro Women
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Employment Lawyers Association
National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce
National Immigrant Solidarity Network
National Jobs for All Coalition
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Network of Sector Partners
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women and Families

National Priorities Project
National Skills Coalition
National Urban League
National WIC Association
National Women's Conference Committee
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations
Open Door Ministry
Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute
PathStone
Peace and Justice Office, Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters
People For the American Way
PolicyLink
Progressive Future
Progressive States Network
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
RESULTS
SAG Talent Unions
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Service Employees International Union
Simon Publications
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team
Southern Echo, Inc.
Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice
The Opportunity Agenda
The Partnership for Working Families
Tradeswomen Now and Tomorrow
U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Food and Commercial Workers
United for a Fair Economy
United Neighborhood Centers of America
The United States Conference of Mayors
United States Student Association
United Steelworkers
USAction
Wider Opportunities for Women
Women Employed
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's Research and Education Institute

Woodstock Institute
Working America
YouthBuild USA

State and Local Organizations

Alaska

Alaska Center for Public Policy
Alaska Works Partnerships

Arizona

Arizona Advocacy Network

Arkansas

Arkansas Interfaith Alliance
Arkansas Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice

California

9to5 Bay Area
9to5 Los Angeles
California Church IMPACT
California Partnership
California Resources and Training
Children's Network of Solano County
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice of San Diego County
Interfaith Council on Economics and Justice
National Council of Jewish Women, California
Parent Voices of Sonoma County
Restaurant Opportunities Center Los Angeles
The Interfaith Council on Economics and Justice
Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corp.
Women at Work

Colorado

9to5 Colorado
Center for Spirituality at Work
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, a project of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Progressive Action
Colorado Progressive Coalition
Interfaith Worker Justice Committee of Colorado

Connecticut

Collaborative Center for Justice
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
United Action Connecticut

Delaware

Delaware Opportunities, Inc.
JEVS Human Services

District of Columbia

Alexandria Economic Opportunity Commission
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
DC Employment Justice Center
Restaurant Opportunities Center of Washington, DC

Florida

Florida Consumer Action Network
Helping Hands Ministry, Annunciation Catholic Church
Miami Coalition for the Homeless
Milton Child Care Center
Pax Christi Northeast Florida
Restaurant Opportunities Center of Miami
South Florida AFL-CIO
South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice

Georgia

9to5 Atlanta Working Women
Georgia Chapter African American Lutheran Association
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
Good Work

Hawaii

Arc of Hilo

Idaho

Idaho Community Action Network
Idaho State AFL-CIO
United Action for Idaho

Illinois

ARISE Chicago
Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
Center Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice
Chicago Jobs Council
Chicago Political Economy Group
Chicago Workers' Collaborative
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Citizen Action/Illinois
Habitat for Humanity of Illinois
Holy Family Ministries
Howard Area Employment Resource Center
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Jobs for Youth Chicago
Local Economic and Employment Development Council
Organization of the NorthEast

Ounce of Prevention Fund
Restaurant Opportunities Center of Chicago
Stopping Woman Abuse Now
YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Indiana

Calumet Project
Saint Joseph Valley Project of Northern Indiana

Iowa

Iowa Citizen Action Network
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
St. Pius Youth

Kentucky

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

Louisiana

Jesuit Social Research Institute, Loyola University New Orleans

Maine

Community Concepts, Inc.
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Women's Lobby
Restaurant Opportunities Center of Maine

Maryland

Casa de Maryland
Progressive Maryland
Public Justice Center
P. Francis Murphy Initiative for Justice and Peace

Massachusetts

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
Alliance to Develop Power
Boston Partners in Mentoring
Greater Gardner Community Development Corporation
Massachusetts Communities Action Network
Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield
Willis Center

Michigan

Michigan Citizen Action
Michigan Community Action Agency Association
Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency
Michigan League for Human Services
Restaurant Opportunities Center of Detroit
St. Joseph Parish

Minnesota

ISAIAH

Minnesota Citizens for Tax Justice

Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

Workers Interfaith Network

Mississippi

Public Policy Center of Mississippi

Missouri

Grass Roots Organizing

Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition

Missourians for Tax Justice

Parenting Life Skills Center

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province

Montana

Tobacco Valley Food Pantry

New Hampshire

Granite State Organizing Project

New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Action

NH AFL-CIO

NH American Friends Service Committee

NH Working Families Win

New Jersey

Council of New Jersey State College Locals, AFT/AFL-CIO

CWA Local 1081

Dress for Success Hudson County

Health Professionals and Allied Employees, AFT/AFL-CIO

New Jersey Association on Correction

New Jersey Citizen Action

New Jersey Tenants Organization

New Jersey's Working Families

New Labor

South Jersey Gray Panthers

United Passaic Organization

United Progress, Inc.

Urban League of Hudson County

Victoria Foundation

New Mexico

New Mexico Voices for Children

Southwest Organizing Project

New York

AMOS Project

Bailey House

Brooklyn AIDS Task Force

CitiWide Harm Reduction

Citizen Action of New York
Common Cause NY
Community Voices Heard
Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Fiscal Policy Institute
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Hunger Action Network of NYS
Lower East Side Family Union
Lower East Side Harm Reduction Center
NY State Stimulus Alliance
NYC AIDS Housing Network
Perceptions for People with Disabilities Positive Health Project, Inc.
Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.
Restaurant Opportunites Center of New York
Syracuse United Neighbors
Voices of Community Advocates and Leaders
YWCA NorthEastern NY

Nevada

Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada
Nevada Lawyers for Progressive Policy
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

North Carolina

Choanoke Area Development Association of NC, Inc.
NC Justice Center
North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
Western North Carolina Worker's Center

North Dakota

Minot Area Homeless Coalition
NDPeople.org

Ohio

Cincinnati Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center
Contact Center
Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative
Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope
Ohio Empowerment Coalition
Policy Matters Ohio
ProgressOhio
Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley
Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, Ohio
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice Coalition and Interfaith Worker Justice
V Dove-Coleman Foundation

Oklahoma

ARC Group Homes, Inc.

Oregon

Human Services Coalition of Oregon
Oregon Action
Progressive Oregon

Pennsylvania

Dignity Housing
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, Pennsylvania
Keystone Progress
Mon Valley Unemployed Committee
Nicetown CDC
Pathways PA
PennAction
United Way of Beaver County
Women's Law Project

Rhode Island

Ocean State Action

South Carolina

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center
South Carolina Fair Share

Tennessee

Dominican Sisters
Interfaith Worker Justice of East Tennessee
Tennessee Alliance for Progress
Tennessee Citizen Action

Texas

La Fe Policy Research and Education Center
North Dallas Chapter of the National Organization for Women

Utah

Family Promise- Salt Lake
Salt Lake Community Action Program

Virginia

Project Community, Inc.
Virginia Organizing Project
West Virginia Citizen Action Group

Washington

Children's Alliance
Citizens for Responsible Justice
Got Green
Minority Executive Directors Coalition of Washington
Organizations United for Reform Washington
Washington Community Action Network
Washington State Labor Council

Wisconsin

9to5 Milwaukee

Citizen Action of Wisconsin

Community Advocates Public Policy Institute

Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice of South Central Wisconsin

Nutrition and Health Associates

Racine Dominican Justice Outreach Office

Voces de la Frontera

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

Workers' Rights Center in Madison, Wisconsin

Wyoming

Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless City