



May 20, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sander Levin
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Chairman Levin,

I am writing on behalf of the Campaign for Community Change to express our strong support for the Promoting American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act (HR 4213).

As you know, we are currently experiencing the greatest economic crisis since the great depression. With unemployment hovering at close to 10% and over 45% of unemployed workers without a job for six months or more, we badly need government action to avert even further extreme hardship for families and communities across the country.

This critical legislation will provide a lifeline for millions of workers who have been unable to find a job. The extension of unemployment insurance and COBRA health benefit subsidies through the end of the year is essential to keeping families in their homes and children from going hungry. Importantly, the bill will also provide six more months of higher Medicaid reimbursement to states, which brings needed help to our communities and a critical economic stimulus to turn this country around.

Given the fact that over 15 million people are unemployed, we desperately need direct job creation in addition to support for key safety net programs such as UI and COBRA. We strongly support the inclusion of the extension of the TANF Emergency Fund program, which provides funding for subsidized jobs. Created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the TANF Emergency Fund is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2010. Failure to act will mean an end to critical programs that have been created across the country to put people to work. By September 30, 2010, it is projected that over 185,000 job placements will have been made as a result of this program. We also support funding for summer jobs, which is estimated to provide 300,000 jobs for youth.

In addition, we strongly support the inclusion of initial funding of \$1 billion for the National Housing Trust Fund, which will help address the critical shortage in affordable housing across the country, as well as \$65 million in accompanying funding for project-based vouchers. This funding will not only help provide affordable homes, but will also support job creation in the hard hit construction industry.

Thank you both for your leadership to ensure critical programs for our families and communities, such as those included in HR 4213, remain available in this time of deep need.

Sincerely,

Deepak Bhargava
Executive Director