



122 C Street NW #125  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
t ] 202.626.7932  
f ] 202.783.7502  
w] [www.lutheranservices.org](http://www.lutheranservices.org)

May 21, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
U.S. Capitol, H-232  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Lutheran Services in America (LSA) and the LSA Disability Network (LSA-DN) write in support of the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010 (H.R. 4213). This important legislation would ensure the continuation of several funding sources integral to the provision of health and human services across the country, as well as reinstitute a key tax incentive critical to the financial wellbeing of many nonprofit organizations.

Provisions particularly supported by LSA include:

- **A six-month extension of the enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate** as established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The failure to pass an extension would mean even deeper cuts to state budgets- and to health and human services programs- than originally expected.
- **Funding for the National Housing Trust Fund of \$1 billion, plus \$65 million for project-based vouchers** to be used in conjunction with housing preserved or created through the trust fund. LSA joined with over 2200 national, state and local organizations on [a letter](#) urging Congress to approve this long overdue funding.
- **The reinstatement of the IRA charitable rollover tax provision**
- **Relief for organizations with defined benefit pension plans.** Several LSA member organizations have had their defined benefit pension plans greatly impacted by the economic downturn. The impact has been a large financial burden at a time when state funding and individual giving is also down.
- **An extension of unemployment insurance (UI) and COBRA benefits** through the end of 2010.
- **An extension of the TANF Emergency Fund** through September 30, 2011.

LSA organizations work across the country with individuals, families and communities, and many of our organizations have seen a significant increase in the demand for their services over

the past two years. Individuals and families continue to be impacted by the recession in dire and immediate ways, from the loss of affordable housing for low- and middle-income families to the cutting of funding for services ranging from substance abuse treatment to day services for seniors. In February, LSA issued an [updated economic impact report](#) which includes firsthand assessments from LSA member organizations as to how their communities and the people they serve are impacted by the current economic climate. As stated in this document, **“LSA strongly believes investments must be made in health and human services. The good news is that such investments – in services, in communities and in people – can return benefits of exponential rather than arithmetic proportions.”**

LSA is an alliance of national Lutheran church denominations and their health and human service providers. LSA has nearly 300 member organizations providing services throughout all 50 states and the Caribbean. This network of organizations works neighbor to neighbor with the elderly, children and families, people with mental and physical disabilities, refugees, victims of natural disasters and others in need. Through these efforts LSA members create opportunities and build self-sufficiency and promise in millions of lives. LSA-DN is a nationwide network of 19 Lutheran social ministry organizations that serve the needs of 21,000 people with developmental disabilities and related conditions.

Thank you for your commitment to moving forward on these provisions which are essential to the wellbeing of nonprofit organizations and people receiving services from them. If LSA can be of further assistance, please contact Lisa Hassenstab at [lhassenstab@lutheranservices.org](mailto:lhassenstab@lutheranservices.org) or at (202) 626-7932.

Sincerely,



Jill Schumann  
President and CEO  
Lutheran Services in America



Lisa Hassenstab  
Director of Advocacy & Policy  
Lutheran Services in America



Meg Cooch  
Director of Policy & Advocacy  
LSA Disability Network