

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 (202) 785-1670. 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