

STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSING THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

July 15, 2011

Dear Representative/Senator:

The undersigned national organizations strongly urge you to oppose any balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.

A balanced budget constitutional amendment would damage the economy, not strengthen it. Demanding that policymakers cut spending and/or raise taxes, even when the economy slows, is the opposite of what is needed to stabilize a weak economy and avert recessions. Such steps would risk tipping a faltering economy into recession or worsening an ongoing downturn, costing large numbers of jobs while blocking worthy investments to stimulate jobs and growth and address the nation's urgent needs in infrastructure and other areas.

Furthermore, the version of the balanced budget amendment that the House Judiciary Committee recently approved (H. J. Res. 1) would impose an arbitrary and severe cap on total federal spending, which, remarkably, would require much deeper cuts than the draconian cuts in the Ryan budget resolution. The bill also would require supermajority votes in the House and Senate to increase the debt limit, waive the balanced budget requirement — or to raise any taxes, including closing the most egregious tax loopholes. This irresponsible requirement would create an extremely steep hurdle to raising any revenues — effectively blocking revenue measures even as part of packages to restore long-term solvency to Social Security and Medicare — while protecting the more than \$1 trillion a year in “tax expenditures” and forcing severe program cuts.

In short, this amendment is a recipe for making recessions more frequent, longer, and deeper, while requiring severe cuts that would harshly affect seniors, children, veterans, people with disabilities, homeland security activities, public safety, environmental protection, education and medical research. It would almost certainly necessitate massive cuts to vital programs including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits and other programs, and, as noted, lead to even deeper cuts than the House-passed budget.

A responsible deficit reduction plan must embrace both spending cuts and new revenues, including curbing special-interest tax loopholes, not a one-sided reliance on spending cuts.

A balanced budget amendment has no place in the Constitution of the United States. Our Constitution has served the nation well because it represents enduring principles that are the foundations of our government. It should not be used as a substitute for real leadership on fiscal policy.

We strongly urge you to oppose any constitutional balanced budget amendment.

Sincerely,

List of Organizational Signers:

IA

AFSCME Iowa Council 61
Child and Family Policy Center
Children & Families of Iowa
Iowa Book Works
Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Policy Project
Iowa State Education Association
JC & Associate
Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Chapter
Paullina Monthly Meeting

All States

504 Democrat Club
9to5 Atlanta Working Women
9to5 Milwaukee
A Minnesota Without Poverty
A World Fit For Kids!
Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc.
Achievement Centers for Children
ACLU of Florida
Action for Children North Carolina
Action NC
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region
Advocacy for Peace and Justice Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Affirmative Options Coalition
AFGE Local 3937, AFL-CIO
AFSCME Florida Council 79
AFSCME Iowa Council 61
AFSCME Wisconsin
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Alabama Arise
All About Developmental Disabilities
All Our Kin, Inc.
ARC Group Homes, Inc.
Arizona Education Association Retired
Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families
Arkansas Education Association
Arkansas Interfaith Alliance
Asociacion de Agencias Comunales de PR
Atonement Lutheran Church
Augustinians
Avant-Garde Foster Family Agency, Inc.
Bay State Child Care Food Program, Inc.
Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health Authority (BABHA)
Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc
Benedictines For Peace-Pittsburgh

Bethany Baptist Church
Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central OH
Bradford/Tioga County Housing & Redevelopment Authority
Brain Injury Association of Minnesota
Brainstormers Inc.
Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
Brindle Foundation
Building Movement Project
C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Association of Food Banks
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA)
California Budget Project
California Food Policy Advocates
California Housing Partnership Corporation
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Partnership
California Reinvestment Coalition
California Teachers Association
California WIC Association
California/Nevada Community Action
Campaign for Better Health Care, Illinois
Catalyst Miami (formerly Human Services Coalition)
CCO- Communities Creating Opportunity
Cedarville Community Church
Center for Civil Justice
Center for Food Action
Center for Human Potential
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Center for Working Families
Central Carmel Preservation Association
Central New York Alliance for Retired Americans
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
Chattanooga's and North Georgians for Economic Rights(CHANGERS)
Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance
Chicago Democratic Socialists of America
Chicago Jobs Council
Chicago Rehab Network
Child and Family Policy Center
Child Care Connections at Pathways of Central Ohio
Children & Families of Iowa
Children First Family Daycare
Children First/Communities In Schools of Buncombe County
Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
Children's Alliance of Washington
Christ Lutheran Church
Church of St. Andrew
Citizen Action of Wisconsin
Citizens for Educational Awareness

Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, Los Angeles

Clinica Project Esperanze
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Collaborative Center for Justice
Colonna Consulting LLC
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Conservation Voters
Colorado Education Association
Colorado Environmental Coalition
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
Colorado Progressive Coalition
Colorado School and Public Employees Retirement Association
Committee Against Domestic Abuse, Inc.
Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis
Community Action Committee of Pike Co.
Community Action Marin
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County
Community Development Corporation Resource Consortium Inc. (CDCRC)
Community Food Advocates
Community Food Security Coalition
Community Healthcare Network
Community Health-In-Partnership Services (CHIPS)
Community Intervention Center of Lackawanna County
Community Service Programs of West Alabama, Inc.
Community Services Of Moses Lake
Community, Culture and Heritage, Inc.
Comprehensive Community Solutions, Inc.
Concilio Latino de Salud, Inc.
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Connecticut Community Development Assoc.
Connecticut Housing Coalition
Connecticut Voices for Children
Cornucopia Community Advocates
Covering Kentucky Kids and Families
Crossroads Urban Center
Culture Connect, Inc.
Dads Make a Difference
Davidson/Site 166 Resident Association Inc - NYCHA
DBG Communications, Inc.
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
Delaware Housing Coalition
Delaware Public Employees Council 81 AFSCME AFL-CIO
Delawareans for Social and Economic Justice
Differently Abled Student Union
Direct Action Welfare Group
Disabilities Network of New York City
Disability Rights Wisconsin
Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York
Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness

Early Care & Learning Council
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and Training
East Missouri Action Agency, Inc.
East Side Neighborhood Development Company
Easter Seals Southern Georgia
ECHO, Inc. Food Bank & CSFP
Educational Association of Worcester
Elev8 Chicago
Empire Justice Center
Encuentro
End Hunger Connecticut!
Englewood Housing Authority (Colorado)
Englewood Housing Authority (New Jersey)
Everywoman Opportunity Center, Inc
Faith Action Network
Family Care Council
Family Connection of Easton, Inc.
Federal Education Association
Filipino Advocates for Justice
FISH Food Banks of Pierce County
FLARA, FL Alliance for Retired Americans
Florida Community Health Action Information Network (CHAIN)
Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy
Florida Education Association
Florida Impact
Florida State Conference NAACP
Food Bank For New York City
Food Bank of Central New York
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
Food Bank of Lincoln
Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Foodshare
Foundation for Senior Living
Franciscan Sisters of Allegany Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Commission
Full Access
Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness
Georgia Budget & Policy Institute
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of New York
Gilead Community Services
Gilman Housing Trust, Inc.
Goldie's Place
Goodwill Homes Community Services, Inc.
Gray Panthers of Suffolk County
Gray Panthers, NYC Network
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger
Greater Syracuse Tenants Network
Green Peace Corps
Guam Communications Network
Hammond Housing Authority

Harborquest, Inc.
Health & Disability Advocates
Health For All
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Helena Indian Alliance
HelpHotline Crisis Center
Helping Hands Ministry
Henderson and Winder, LLC
Holy Family Ministries
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, JPIC-USA
HOME Line
Housing Action Illinois
Housing Action NH
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
Housing Authority of Billings
Housing Authority of the City of Las Cruces, NM
Housing Community Development Network of NJ
Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County, MD
Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia Inc.
Houston Peace and Justice Center
Human Facets International
Human Services Programs of Carroll County. Inc.
Hunger Free Vermont
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Hunger Solutions New York, Inc.
Hunger Task Force
Huntington Area Food Bank
ICC
Idaho Education Association
Illinois Association of School Social Workers
Illinois Education Association
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Imagination Station
Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World (IBPOEof W)
Independent Living Services of Northern California
Institute for Wisconsin's Future
Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
International Institute of the Bay Area
Iowa Book Works
Iowa Environmental Council
Iowa Policy Project
Iowa State Education Association
Island Harvest
JC & Associate
Jewish Community Action
Joyland Child Development Center, Inc.
Just Harvest: A Center for Action Against Hunger
Justice Outreach of Racine Dominicans
Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Commission, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
Kansas City Criminal Justice Task Force

Kansas National Education Association
KCEOC Financial Services Corporation
Kebaya Coaching ~ Consulting
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Kentucky Center for Economic Policy
Kentucky State AFL-CIO
Kentucky Task Force on Hunger
Kentucky Youth Advocates
Khmer Health Advocates
KinderCare
Knowles Financial Advisors
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center
La Junta/Otero County Housing Authority
La Union Estudiantil de la Raza (UER)
Lake County Community Action Partnership
Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau, Inc.
Last updated for Wufoo entry 710
Latina Initiative
Leadership Council of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
LeFlore Communications, LLC
Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio
Libreria del Pueblo, Inc
LIFT-The Bronx
Listening House of St. Paul
LoLaDiVa Designs
Long Term Care Community Coalition
Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations
Louisiana Budget Project
Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition
Madison-area Urban Ministry
Mae's Place Home Daycare
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Education Association
Maine Equal Justice Partners, Inc.
Marguerite's Place, Inc.
Mary Ellen McCormack Tenant Task Force Inc
Maryland State Education Association
Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants
Massachusetts Citizens for Children
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts Teachers Association
Maternal and Child Health Access
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc
MDC
MDI Imported Car Service, Inc.
Mental Health America of Colorado
Mental Health America of Virginia
Mental Health Association of New York City
Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Chapter
Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign

Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Saint Louis
Michigan Alliance of Cooperatives
Michigan Education Association
Michigan League for Human Services
Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network
Mid Hudson Valley Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
Middlesex County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council
Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota Community Action Partnership
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits - Northeast Chapter
Minnesota Head Start Association
Minnesota Housing Partnership
Minnesota Image Co.
Minnesota Public Health Association
Minnesota Valley Action Council, Inc
Missouri Alliance for Retired Americans
Missouri Association for Social Welfare
Missouri Budget Project
Missouri Family Health Council
Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance
Missouri Health Care for All
Missouri National Education Association
Missouri ProVote
Missouri Rural Crisis Center
Montana Budget and Policy Center
Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Montana Coalition for the Homeless
Montana Education Association - Montana Federation of Teachers
Montana Food Bank Network
Montana National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)
Montana Organizing Project
Montana Small Business Alliance
Montana Women Vote
MPOWER
Musikanten
Nana's Wish
Natick Housing Authority
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Missouri
National Association of Social Workers- Sarasota Chapter
National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Consumer Advisory Board (NCAB)
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
National Council of Jewish Women - Missouri
National Council of Jewish Women - PA State Public Affairs
National Council of Jewish Women RI
National Council of Jewish Women Texas State Public Affairs
National Council of Jewish Women, California State Public Affairs

National Council of Jewish Women, Illinois State Public Affairs Committee
National Council of Jewish Women, NJ State Public Affairs
National Jobs for All Coalition
NC Budget and Tax Center
NC Justice Center
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
Neighborhood Family Services Coalition
Neighborhood House Association, Inc.
Nevada Public Health Foundation
Nevada State Education Association
New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute
New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc (NJMHAA)
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Jersey Tenants Organization
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness
New Mexico Collaboration to End Hunger
New Mexico National Education Association
New Mexico Voices for Children
New Orleans Bread for the World
New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services
New York City Coalition Against Hunger
New York State Community Action Association
New York State United Teachers
New York Statewide Senior Action Council
Nightsweats & T-cells, Co
NM Coalition to End Homelessness
North Carolina Association of Educators
North Carolina Social Justice Project
North Carolina Tuberous Sclerosis Assn., Inc.
North Dakota Education Association
North Dakota Women's Network
Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA)
Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association
Northwest Community Action, Inc
Northwest Harvest
Northwest Health Law Advocates
Northwest Housing Development
Northwestern Ohio CAC
Norwalk Housing Authority
Nutrition First
Ohio Association of Community Health Centers
Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks
Ohio Children's Foundation
Ohio Education Association
Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health
Ohio Poverty Law Center
Oklahoma Education Association

One Stop Career center of PR
One Wisconsin Now
Open Access Connections
Opportunity Housing Inc. (OHI)
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Education Association
Oregon Primary Care Association
Oregon Rural Action
Our Bodies Ourselves
PA Coalition to End Homelessness
PA Partnerships for Children
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Partners in Healthy Communities
PATH, Inc.
Paullina Monthly Meeting
Pax Christi Northeast Florida
Pax Christi Northwest Minnesota
Peace & Justice Committee, Oberlin Ohio
Peace Action
Peace and Freedom Party of California
Peace with Justice Ministries
Peninsula Counseling Center
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center
Pennsylvania State Education Association
People Living Through Cancer
People of Faith CT
PHAR- Charlottesville Public Housing Association of Residents
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center
Pierce County Housing Authority
Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD
Planned Parenthood of Montana
Plymouth Shiloh Food Pantry
PMG Associates Inc
Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc
Productive Alternatives, Inc.
Progressive Democrats of the Santa Monica Mountains (PDSMM)
Progressives of the Verde Valley
Project People Lacking Ample Shelter and Employment, Inc (PLASE)
Project Bread - The Walk for Hunger
Project for Pride in Living
Project Illinois Religious Engaging in Nonviolent Endeavors (IRENE)
PROMO
Prosperity Works
Protestants for the Common Good
Providence Connections
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
Public Housing Resident Network
Public Justice Center
Public Policy Center of Mississippi

Putnam Housing Authority
Queens Community House
Rapid Response Home Health Care
Recovery Concepts Addiction Counseling Services, Inc.
RePHRAME
RESULTS - Detroit
RESULTS - Washington DC Area Chapter
RESULTS, Albuquerque
RESULTS, Asheville
RESULTS, Boston
RESULTS, Central NJ Domestic Group
Results, Columbus
RESULTS, Los Angeles
RESULTS, Santa Fe
RESULTS, Seattle
RESULTS, Silicon Valley
RESULTS-Salina, Kansas
RHA Howell, Inc
Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
Rockland Immigration Coalition
Rocky Mountain CARE Solutions
ROSE Community Development
Safe Earth Alliance
Safe Passages
Samaritan House, Inc.
Sar Levian Center at Johns Hopkins University
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
School Sisters of Notre Dame, AM Province, JPIC Office
Scott County Partnership, Inc.
Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties
Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
Self Help Center
Seneca 2
Service Employee's International Union Missouri State Council
Servicios de La Raza
Shared Harvest Foodbank
Shaw Jewish Community Center School Age Child Care Program
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
Simpson Housing Services
Single Stop USA
Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community Justice Team
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team
Sisters of Mercy, Mid-Atlantic Justice Ministry
Sisters of Mercy-Northeast Leadership Team
Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery Justice and Peace Committee
Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation Justice Committee
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Leadership Team
Social Action Linking Together (SALT)
Social Justice Committee, Wayne Presbyterian Church
Social Justice Ministry

Solid Ground
Somerville Homeless Coalition
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
South King County Food Coalition
Southern California Assoc. of Non-Profit Housing
Southwest Key Programs
Southwest Statistical Consulting, LLC
Speech Therapy Fun
St. Andrew's Senior Solutions
St. Gabriel Peace and Justice Committee
St. Mary's Center
St. Mary's Social Justice Committee
St. Matthew Justice & Human Concerns
St. Viator Parish
Starting Over, Inc.
Statesville Housing Authority
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of NJ
Statewide Poverty Action Network
Stavros Center for Independent Living
Supportive Housing Network of New York
Survivors Inc
T L H Consulting, Inc
Teens, Training and Taxes
Tennessee Education Association
Tennessee Justice Center
Texans Care for Children
Texas State Teachers Association
Texas Tenants' Union
The Access Community Action Agency
The Arc Minnesota
The Arc of Greater Cleveland
The Atlanta Community Food Bank
The Bronx Health Link
The Consortium
The Food Depot
The Illinois Federation for Community Schools
The Kansas City Sound
The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People
The Policy Institute
The Poverty Institute
The South Carolina Education Association
Three Square
Tidewater Equine
Tioga Peace and Justice
TPS LLC
TrainingWorks
Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc.
United Auto Workers (UAW) MA State CAP Council
United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County
United Way of Beaver County
Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN) Ohio

Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.
URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America
Utah Housing Coalition
Utahns Against Hunger
Vail Place
Vaishnava Center for Enlightenment Inc.
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Vermont National Education Association
Vices de la Frontera
Virginia AFL-CIO
Virginia Association of Personal Care Assistants, SEIU
Virginia Education Association
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Virginia New Majority
Virginia NOW
Virginia Organizing
Virginia Poverty Law Center
VOCAL-NY
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Voices for Illinois Children
Voices for Vermont's Children
VSA Minnesota
W. C. Management Non Profit Housing
WA State National Organization for Women
Waimanalo Health Center
Washington Education Association
Washington Food Coalition
Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
Washington State Budget & Policy Center
Weld Food Bank
West Central Industries, Inc.
West Virginia Education Association
Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc
Westchester for Change
Western Carolina Community Action
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Western Economic Development Organization
Westside Family Healthcare
Windemere Democrats for Obama
Windham Regional Community Council, Inc.
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Wisconsin Education Association Council
Wisconsin Voices
Witnesses to Hunger
Women Employed
Women of Reform Judaism
Women of Vision
Women's City Club of New York
Women's Opportunity and Resource Development
Women's Voices Raised For Social Justice

World Hunger Ecumenical Arizona Task Force (WHEAT)

World Knowledge Bank

Wow Graphics

WV Center on Budget and Policy

WV Citizen Action Group

Xaverian Brothers

YWCA Missoula

YWCA of Canton

YWCA of Greater Cincinnati

YWCA PrincetonDirect Action Welfare Group

Huntington Area Food Bank

Seneca 2

West Virginia Education Association

WV Center on Budget and Policy

WV Citizen Action Group