

June 4, 2007

The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative _____:

The Budget Resolution just approved by Congress allows an increase of 3.1 percent beyond inflation for non-defense appropriations. That is modest but urgently needed progress. With the \$13.5 billion in above-inflation funding, Congress can take meaningful steps towards addressing education, health, child welfare, nutrition, and other vital needs. Regrettably, just as Congress is starting its work of writing appropriations bills, OMB Director Portman has communicated to Congress possible vetoes of appropriations bills that exceed the President's budget proposals and members of the Republican Study Committee are circulating a letter pledging to support any such veto. The undersigned national organizations strongly urge you *not* to sign such a letter because it is pure and simple a declaration of intent to cut badly needed services below today's already inadequate levels.

All members of Congress face a very important choice. You can help our nation move forward or you can slow progress by further shrinking the federal commitment to education, training, child care, and the basic needs of health, food, heat, and housing central to every community. Please do not decide in advance to stand in the way of the progress we need. Americans now see the damaging results of years of cuts and critical safety net program erosions. We need your help to begin to undo that damage – to support investments in services to help children develop, allow parents to work, and protect seniors and people with disabilities. Please support domestic appropriations that will allow improved services and reject calls for further cuts.

Sincerely,

ACORN
AIDS Action Council
The AIDS Institute
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Association of University Women
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee
American School Health Association
America's Second Harvest
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Bread for the World
Campaign for America's Future
Center for Community Change
Center for Law and Social Policy
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund

Coalition on Human Needs
Congressional Hunger Center
Easter Seals
Every Child Matters Education Fund
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Institute of Social Medicine & Community Health
Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA)
Jewish Women International
Lutheran Services in America
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Mennonite Central Committee, Washington Office
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Social Workers
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association
National Community Action Foundation
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Council on Aging
National Education Association
The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
National Head Start Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association
National Organization for Women
National Priorities Project
National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
OMB Watch
People For the American Way
Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Reading Recovery Council of North America
RESULTS
Service Employees International Union
TEFAP Alliance
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
United for a Fair Economy
United States Student Association
USAction
Voices for America's Children
Wider Opportunities for Women
Women for Peace
Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment
The Workforce Alliance
World Hunger Year
YWCA USA