



**ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS  
TASK FORCE ON POVERTY, WORK AND OPPORTUNITY  
75th ANNUAL U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS  
LOS ANGELES, CA JUNE 22-26, 2007**

**ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**  
**TASK FORCE ON POVERTY, WORK AND OPPORTUNITY**  
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Submitted by:

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
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The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Antonio R.  
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Mayor of Los Angeles

The Honorable David Coss  
Mayor of Santa Fe, NM

The Honorable Dan Furtado  
Mayor of Campbell (CA)

The Honorable James Humphrey  
Mayor of Fort Myers

The Honorable Sharon Goldsworthy  
Mayor of Germantown, TN

**REFORMING FEDERAL PROGRAMS SO THAT THEY BETTER HELP FAMILIES AND  
INDIVIDUALS REACH AND MAINTAIN ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

1. **WHEREAS**, many existing federal government programs intended to help low-income individuals and families reach economic self-sufficiency are not easily accessible or understandable to the populations that could benefit from them; and
2. **WHEREAS**, many existing federal government programs intended to help low-income individuals and families reach economic self-sufficiency are not compatible with one another because they are administered by many different federal agencies and have significant differences in eligibility and enrollment processes; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the rules governing many federal programs require that individuals receiving benefits are no longer eligible for those benefits when their household income increases even modestly; and
4. **WHEREAS**, the nation's poverty system has not kept pace with the latest developments in technology and, as a result, low-income citizens stand in line at counters to receive benefits while the rest of the world is moving faster with new technology; and
5. **WHEREAS**, many of the discretionary federal programs intended to help families and individuals achieve self-sufficiency are able to help only a very small portion of those who are eligible to

receive them, and many of the entitlement programs intended to assist these same people provide very low benefit levels; and

6. **WHEREAS**, there is a widening income gap despite government programs which are helping low-income families lift themselves above the poverty line, and many more low-income families are falling further behind, while the nation's top earners are gaining a larger share of total income; and
7. **WHEREAS**, estimates by the Congressional Budget Office indicate that \$11 billion in child support payments will go uncollected over the next 10 years as a result of cuts to child support enforcement funding included in the Deficit Reduction Act, including elimination of the federal match on performance-based incentive funds and reduction of the federal match on paternity testing,
8. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to provide ample funding for existing programs benefiting low-income families; and
9. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors calls on the federal government to:
  - Ensure that low-income populations can easily access the tools they need to reach economic self-sufficiency;
  - Streamline and simplify programs to enable more of those who are eligible for them to effectively and efficiently take advantage of them;
  - Adopt standard, complementary eligibility guidelines for income support programs, and ensure that government anti-poverty programs are broad enough to include middle class families at risk of slipping into poverty;
  - Reinvent the delivery mechanisms for the nation's income support programs by using the latest technology and new systems to reach low-income families, and ensure that they receive the full spectrum of benefits for which they are eligible;
  - Make resources available for coordinated and expanded outreach efforts which connect families to the work supports that they are eligible to receive, including the EITC, food stamps, Medicaid, energy assistance, and childcare assistance, through robust community-based centers;
  - Restore federal funding for child support enforcement, including the match for performance-based incentive funds;
9. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors further urges that federal policies be revised to encourage upward mobility without the threat of withdrawal of services when a modest increase in household income occurs; and

10. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that all levels of government and the private sector identify opportunities to develop collaborative solutions for targeting and serving low-income populations;
11. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Mayors compile, exchange and implement best local practices.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
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Mayor of Campbell (CA)

The Honorable James Humphrey  
Mayor of Fort Myers

The Honorable Sharon Goldsworthy  
Mayor of Germantown, TN

#### **PROVIDING FEDERAL AND STATE SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL**

1. **WHEREAS**, sweeping changes are posing new challenges to the upward mobility of workers into the middle class, as well as to American prosperity more generally; and
2. **WHEREAS**, more that 37 million people in the U.S. are officially poor today despite the fact that one-half of poor families are now working; and
3. **WHEREAS**, to successfully boost economic opportunity and grow the middle class, the U.S. must broaden investments in poverty policy from their focus on helping yesterday's workers to boosting the prospects of more of tomorrow's workers; and
4. **WHEREAS**, this approach gives lower income Americans the tools to help themselves, positions the government to achieve long-term savings as the need for today's poverty-related programs declines, and - most importantly - takes advantage of some of the key opportunities to reduce poverty that have been created by the sweeping changes of our time; and
5. **WHEREAS**, today, more than 45 percent of public school students tested in kindergarten and middle school fail to achieve age-appropriate proficiency in reading and mathematics, and only 35 percent of our urban middle school students achieve proficiency in math; and

6. **WHEREAS**, lower income children consistently perform worse in achievement tests in both reading and mathematics than higher income children, and they make up a disproportionately large share of those who drop out, doing so at twice the overall rate; and
7. **WHEREAS**, only one-half of lower income children even begin college, compared with more than 75 percent of higher income children; and
8. **WHEREAS**, the more success a child achieves in school, the less likely he or she is to live in poverty as an adult, and the poverty rate of high school dropouts is three times that of those who graduate; and
9. **WHEREAS**, one of every four American children drops out of high school before graduating, and the Council of the Great City Schools reports that in major cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Dallas, fewer than one-half of entering ninth graders graduate high school within four years; and
10. **WHEREAS**, as a result millions of young Americans reach adulthood with dramatically lower chances for economic success, as the overwhelming majority of those who drop out spend much of their lives on the margins of the economy; and
11. **WHEREAS**, educational attainment is the best predictor of economic success for an adult, and research shows that children who enter K-12 schools with no previous classroom time are less prepared to learn than children who attend preschool programs; and
12. **WHEREAS**, research has shown that investment in early childhood development programs brings a real (inflation adjusted) public return of 12 percent and a real total return, public and private, of 16 percent; and
13. **WHEREAS**, early childhood education benefits taxpayers through reduced need for welfare assistance, increased income tax revenue, less burden on the criminal justice system, and fewer children needing remedial education services; and
14. **WHEREAS**, research indicates that children who do not receive an early education are more likely to struggle as young adults and as adults, score more poorly on achievement tests, have children as teenagers, engage in criminal activity, and face chronic unemployment; and
15. **WHEREAS**, a recent study indicates that governmental investment in high quality, universal preschool could add more than \$2 trillion to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2080; and

16. **WHEREAS**, Head Start successfully provides early education and wrap-around services to needy youth and their families who hope to move into the middle-class, but the current federal investment in the program serves only 60 percent of eligible three- and four-year-olds; and
17. **WHEREAS**, access to preschool and early education will help make the United States more globally competitive and secure in its future; and
18. **WHEREAS**, the members of the Conference of Mayors have previously adopted resolutions supporting investment in early childhood education and preschool,
19. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal and state governments to work with local governments to provide universal and standards-based preschool and early education to all families; and
20. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all regulated early care and education program settings be included in this universal preschool and early education system if they can demonstrate that they meet local, state, and federal quality standards; and
21. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors urges that in addition to expanding access to quality preschool programs, the hours of service of these programs be extended to accommodate the schedules of working families; and
22. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors encourages the continued support of the Head Start program, which provides additional services for families in need above and beyond preschool education; and
23. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government provide additional funding for Head Start to support a full-day option and raise the income threshold for Head Start eligibility.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor of Boston

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Mayor of San Francisco

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa  
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Mayor of Miami

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The Honorable Sharon Goldsworthy  
Mayor of Germantown, TN

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable James Humphrey  
Mayor of Fort Myers

**REAUTHORIZATION AND EXPANSION OF THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE  
PROGRAM**

1. **WHEREAS**, the number of uninsured children increased by 294,000 to almost 9 million from 2004 to 2005; and
2. **WHEREAS**, children without coverage are more likely to go without immunizations, and end up in emergency rooms when conditions could have been addressed sooner at the primary care level; and
3. **WHEREAS**, uninsured children get less medically necessary care, and are more likely to have unmet needs for care; and
4. **WHEREAS**, estimates are that 70 percent of all uninsured children are eligible for low-cost or free health care coverage under Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); and
5. **WHEREAS**, many children are eligible for coverage but are not enrolled in existing programs because of bureaucratic barriers that make it difficult to obtain or keep coverage, are excluded from programs or go uninsured when their parents change jobs, or receive varying levels of services because program benefits vary from state to state; and

6. **WHEREAS**, SCHIP provides coverage to children in low-income families whose income exceeds Medicaid income eligibility limits; and
7. **WHEREAS**, every state has an SCHIP program, and SCHIP has not only been successful in covering newly eligible children but also in triggering major improvements in Medicaid that allowed millions of uninsured children who had been eligible for Medicaid but not enrolled to gain coverage and access to care,
8. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reauthorize and expand the State Child Health Insurance Program; and
9. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors commends Congress for seeking an additional \$50 billion (for FY 2008 - FY 2012) as part of the FY 2008 Budget Resolution for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). This important deficit-neutral funding would cover millions of children without health insurance in this country and we urge that Congress and the Administration approve the \$50 billion for this purpose.
10. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors urges the Administration, Congress and the States to ensure that all children and pregnant women have health insurance coverage including:
  - Strengthening the current Medicaid and SCHIP programs to significantly narrow the disparities in income eligibility for children in different states. Children deserve a national health care safety net;
  - A national benefit package that guarantees that children in every state receive all medically necessary health, mental health and dental services;
  - Streamlined mechanisms for enrollment and active outreach to eligible but not enrolled children;
  - Guaranteed coverage and elimination of waiting lists;
  - Assurance that states would incur minimal cost for expanding coverage and enhancing benefits or for increasing provider reimbursement to ensure that eligible children are covered and coverage is maintained; and
  - Assurance that insurance coverage is maintained for all who currently receive insurance including eligible parents and children, and especially pregnant women.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

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The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
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The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
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Mayor of Fort Myers

The Honorable Sharon Goldsworthy  
Mayor of Germantown, TN

#### PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

1. **WHEREAS**, the number of people without health insurance coverage increased by 1.3 million to 46.6 million - 15.9 percent of the population - between 2004 and 2005; and
2. **WHEREAS**, the percentage of people covered by employment-based health insurance declined slightly - from 59.8 percent to 59.5 percent - between 2004 and 2005, while the percentage of people covered by government health insurance remained at 27.3 percent during the same period; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the number of uninsured children increased by 400,000 to 8.3 million from 2004 to 2005; and
4. **WHEREAS**, if one breadwinner in a middle class family has significant medical bills due to lack of health insurance, that family is at high risk of slipping into poverty, thus making many middle class families one accident or illness away from a catastrophe,
5. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for the repair of the nation's health insurance system so that all Americans have access to affordable, quality health care.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

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The Honorable Michael B. Coleman  
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Mayor of Burnsville

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Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

#### **STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOOD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

1. **WHEREAS**, cities continue to have as a goal and virtually all of them work toward bringing more financial services and products into their low-income neighborhoods; and
2. **WHEREAS**, mayors and state officials have made use of the New Markets Tax Credit and are working to achieve more with it by encouraging the private-sector to target more of their resources and products in underserved areas; and
3. **WHEREAS**, banking development districts have not been developed to any degree of success as a tool to bring more branches and responsible banking into underserved areas; and
4. **WHEREAS**, banks have not done well in identifying low-income neighborhoods that are underserved and then follow up by opening branches in these markets with appropriate products for underserved markets; and
5. **WHEREAS**, there have been too few attempts at leveraging underused assets in inner-city neighborhoods, particularly those neighborhoods with unmet market need; and
6. **WHEREAS**, there has been a great deal of work in identifying regulatory barriers to housing, there has not been a similar effort with respect to state and regulatory barriers to economic development; and
7. **WHEREAS**, the private sector has not done a number of things to assist the economic development of low-income areas: using

nontraditional methods to promote economic development; using successful business models already identified in low-income areas; committing venture capital and other capital investments to low-income markets; and

8. **WHEREAS**, cities also have need to provide assistance to minority workers; and
9. **WHEREAS**, many of the economic development needs of cities listed in this resolution could be solved with a strengthened and reformed Community Reinvestment Act that would include the rapidly developing financial institutions under its purview, strengthen its branch banking power, and increase the range of financial services required for low-income people and communities;
10. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to strengthen and reform the Community Reinvestment Act, by widening its purview of financial institutions, adding to its branch banking power so as to include more low-income areas, and increasing banks' financial services to low-income people and communities;
11. **BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that The Conference of Mayors also calls on the private sector not covered by the CRA to work closely with mayors to deliver services and products to underserved low-income areas in the many ways cited in this resolution.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

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The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
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Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Mayor of San Francisco

The Honorable Greg Nickels  
Mayor of Seattle

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Francis Slay  
Mayor of St. Louis

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

The Honorable Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor of Boston, MA

The Honorable Raul G. Salinas  
Mayor of Laredo, TX

#### **INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**

1. **WHEREAS**, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was signed into law by President Gerald Ford as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and
2. **WHEREAS**, the primary objective of the program is the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities for low-and moderate-income persons; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow urban, suburban, and rural communities to carry out a broad range of activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and
4. **WHEREAS**, throughout its 32-year old history, the CDBG program has been a partnership among all levels of government, the business community, and the nonprofit sector to carry out activities that improve the lives and neighborhoods of low-and moderate-income families; and
5. **WHEREAS**, according to HUD, over 95 percent of FY2006 funding was allocated to activities principally benefiting low-and moderate-

income persons and their neighborhoods; and

6. **WHEREAS**, also according to FY2006 HUD data, CDBG provided housing assistance to 179,835 housing projects, created or retained 55,957 jobs for low-and moderate-income persons, provided essential public services to an estimated 11 million households; and
7. **WHEREAS**, CDBG formula grants were cut by 10 percent in FY2006 from \$4.1 billion to \$3.71 billion, and also cut in FY2005 by five percent, resulting in a 15 percent cut in two years; and
8. **WHEREAS**, CDBG formula grants remained at the same funding level in FY2007 as FY2006, \$3.71 billion; and
9. **WHEREAS**, a survey on the impact of the CDBG cuts released by 20 organizations, including the Conference of Mayors, on March 15, 2006 found that reduced formula allocations between FY2004-FY2006 has had a substantial negative effect on the 68 percent of all state programs and 28 percent of all entitlement communities that responded to the survey; and
10. **WHEREAS**, the survey found that CDBG cuts to cities, counties and states between FY2004 – FY2006 has led to 5,588 fewer businesses, 5,843 fewer homeowners, 5,064,408 fewer low-and moderate-income persons served, 255,569 fewer elderly persons served, 391,823 fewer children and youth served, 253,187 fewer persons with special needs served, 196,150 fewer homeless persons served, 50,046 fewer units of rehabilitated housing, and 1251 city and county improvement projects(water and sewer, street and sidewalks, fire stations, public facilities) canceled or delayed; and
11. **WHEREAS**, the administration's FY2008 budget request proposes to cut nearly \$1billion in CDBG formula funding; and
12. **WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2007, fifty-two members of the Senate sent a letter to the Budget Committee urging it to include sufficient funding to permit CDBG formula grants to be funded at \$4.1 billion in FY2008; and
13. **WHEREAS**, the Conference of Mayors in its 10-Point Plan released in January, 2007 calls for CDBG formula funding to be doubled to \$8 billion;
14. **WHEREAS**, mayors contend that the additional funding of \$8 billion would address the delayed projects and activities which have come about because of cuts to CDBG, and further build on the proven record of an effective affordable housing and revitalization program;
15. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors

strongly supports that formula funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program be increased to no less than \$4.1 billion in FY2008;

16. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors also strongly supports that formula funding for the CDBG program be doubled to at least \$8 billion.

Projected Cost: \$8 billion

Submitted by:

The Honorable Thomas M. Menino  
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The Honorable Michael B. Coleman  
Mayor of Columbus, Ohio

The Honorable Cory Booker  
Mayor of Newark

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
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Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
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The Honorable Robert Duffy  
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The Honorable Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

The Honorable Greg Nickels  
Mayor of Seattle, WA

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Mayor of San Francisco

The Honorable Michael Bloomberg  
Mayor New York

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable John F. Street  
Mayor of Philadelphia

The Honorable Chuck Reed  
Mayor of San Jose

The Honorable Richard Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Jerry Sanders  
Mayor of San Diego

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Francis Slay  
Mayor of St. Louis

#### **SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND**

1. **WHEREAS**, housing is at the core of strong communities, promoting neighborhood stability, improving educational opportunity, employment stability, and helping owners to build wealth; and
2. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors 2006 Hunger and Homelessness Survey found that one of the primary causes of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing; and
3. **WHEREAS**, a 2006 National Low Income Housing Coalition study found that there are roughly nine million renter households nationwide who pay half or more of their income for housing; and
4. **WHEREAS**, safe, decent, and affordable housing is at the foundation of strong families and communities; and

5. **WHEREAS**, unmet housing needs have reached an all-time high;  
and
6. **WHEREAS**, working people in our cities are having a difficult time finding affordable housing and 9.6 million of the lowest income families in the U.S. pay more than half of their income for housing; and
7. **WHEREAS**, since 1976, new federal spending on housing has decreased substantially; and
8. **WHEREAS**, housing represents 23 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product, is an economic stimulus and creates jobs;  
and
9. **WHEREAS**, affordable housing must be a national priority; and
10. **WHEREAS**, nearly 600 state and local housing trust funds have been created, which serve as models for what can and should be done at the national level; and
11. **WHEREAS**, a national housing trust fund should be established to construct, rehabilitate and preserve housing; and
12. **WHEREAS**, local governments have played a significant role in the development of affordable housing and that role is recognized and supported by the proposed national housing trust fund,
13. **WHEREAS**, the three decade long housing trust fund movement continues to grow to where there is now more than 600 state and local housing trusts that collectively generate 1.6 billion dollars a year; and
14. **WHEREAS**, federal legislation recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives' Financial Services Committee authorizes the creation of an Affordable Housing Fund based on the revenues of the government sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; and
15. **WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the Affordable Housing Fund will become a part of the National Housing Trust Fund, providing for even more funding capacity for the production and preservation of housing; and
16. **WHEREAS**, the Conference of Mayors has already adopted strong policy for a National Housing Trust Fund;

17. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors reaffirms its policy by calling for the passage of a National Housing Trust Fund primarily, but not exclusively, designed to meet the needs of the very low income, i.e. 30 percent of the AMI or below, through the preservation and production of housing;
18. **BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports that 60 percent or more of the funding of the National Housing Trust Fund should be allocated to localities.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Michael B. Coleman  
Mayor of Columbus, Ohio

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Francis Slay  
Mayor of St. Louis

#### **PROTECTING AGAINST PREDATORY LENDING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

1. **WHEREAS**, predatory lenders charge more in interest and fees than necessary for services ranging from insurance to remittances to rent-to-own agreements, and make loans with abusive terms and conditions that trap borrowers and lead to increased indebtedness, and fail to take into account the ability of borrowers to repay loans; and
2. **WHEREAS**, predatory financial service and lending practices target society's most vulnerable populations, including senior citizens, low income individuals, and minorities, and strip hard-earned equity from homeowners, thus putting them at risk of foreclosure and damaging their credit ratings; and
3. **WHEREAS**, predatory lending is a key factor in many foreclosures and the creation of vacant properties, leading to decreasing property values for neighboring homeowners and neighborhood blight; and
4. **WHEREAS**, many state and local governments have passed anti-predatory lending laws to protect consumers from abusive and predatory lending practices, and many state and local governments are acting to reduce the presence of financial services; and
5. **WHEREAS**, families struggling to get ahead can achieve very real improvements in their economic well-being, increasing spendable income and savings when they are not victims of excessive fees, interest, and exploitive financial service agreements,
6. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to pass strong mortgage lending and financial service protections, based on existing successful state laws and regulations, which guard against price-gouging practices by unscrupulous brokers and lenders; and

7. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Conference of Mayors urges the Administration to promulgate regulations which restrict the practices of predatory financial service providers.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

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Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

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The Honorable Ron Dellums  
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The Honorable Frank Ortis  
Mayor of Pembroke Pines

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

**PROVIDING PRISONERS REENTERING SOCIETY AND EX-OFFENDERS GREATER  
OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

1. **WHEREAS**, approximately 650,000 state and federal prisoners reenter society each year; and
2. **WHEREAS**, persons leaving jail or prison often lack not only the most basic necessities, such as food, shelter and clothing, but also job skills, training and placement; transitional housing; and support services, including substance abuse and mental health treatment; and
3. **WHEREAS**, about half of all former prisoners are returned to prison for a new crime or parole violation within three years; and
4. **WHEREAS**, the social costs of reentry have profound consequences for our communities, including public health risks, homelessness, unemployment and public safety concerns; and
5. **WHEREAS**, incarceration and the challenges of reentry have a profound impact on the family members of those who are incarcerated, with children of those in prison at a higher risk of living in poverty; and
6. **WHEREAS**, more than two-thirds of the incarcerated population has a high rate of infectious disease, substance abuse and/or mental health disorders; and
7. **WHEREAS**, close to 27 percent of prisoners expect to go to homeless shelters upon release from prison, and 16 percent of the local jail population is mentally ill; and

8. **WHEREAS**, many former prisoners are denied employment, educational assistance, TANF benefits, subsidized housing, parental rights, health care, driver's licenses, and the right to vote, and barriers to these rights and services often prevent effective reintegration into society,
9. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts to more effectively integrate persons leaving jail or prison back into society, including:
- Providing education to prison inmates;
  - Providing inmates with the necessary skills to become productive citizens upon return to society;
  - Providing inmates with opportunities to gain the skills to be effective and to have positive influences in the life of their family upon reentry, including their roles as parents;
  - Providing support suited to the particular needs of children of incarcerated individuals to improve their life chances;
  - Allowing individuals returning from prison the option of living in public housing when it is in the best interests of their families and communities;
  - Providing government jobs for re-entering individuals;
  - Providing tax subsidies for businesses that hire returning individuals;
  - Changing employment requirements which prohibit hiring people with criminal records, and providing incentives to hire returning prisoners;
  - Encouraging businesses which contract with the government to hire people with a criminal record, and providing businesses tax credits for bonding them; and
  - Encouraging governments and other employers to consider establishing a special temporary worker category for returning prisoners to make it easier for them to get a first job.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester, NY

The Honorable Cory Booker  
Mayor of Newark

The Honorable Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Arlene J. Mulder  
Mayor of Arlington Heights

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

**HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL RECORDS BECOME  
SELF-SUFFICIENT**

1. **WHEREAS**, juvenile criminal records exist for young people arrested or detained for crimes regardless of whether they were convicted of those crimes; and
2. **WHEREAS**, laws and regulations governing the sealing, expunging or releasing of juvenile criminal records vary from state to state; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the ability of employers to consider the existence of juvenile criminal records also varies from state to state; and
4. **WHEREAS**, the existence of criminal records can affect young people's future ability to be self-sufficient, adding to their difficulty in getting a job, obtaining the experience necessary to qualify for a job, or obtaining access to public benefits, such as welfare cash assistance, food stamps, and public housing assistance,
5. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to explore ways in which it can work with the states to develop a more consistent and enforceable system to govern the sealing, expunging and releasing of juvenile records, particularly those associated with nonviolent crimes, so that young people affected have the maximum opportunity to become self-sufficient, successful adults; and
6. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Conference of Mayors urges that serious consideration be given to expunging children's criminal records relating to nonviolent crimes.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville

The Honorable Francis Slay  
Mayor of St. Louis

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

#### IMPROVING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

1. **WHEREAS**, today, more than 45 percent of public school students tested in kindergarten and middle school fail to achieve age-appropriate proficiency in reading and mathematics, and only 35 percent of urban middle school students achieve proficiency in math; and
2. **WHEREAS**, lower income children consistently perform worse in achievement tests in both subjects than higher income children, make up a disproportionately large share of those who drop out, and drop out at twice the overall rate; and
3. **WHEREAS**, only one-half of lower income children even begin college, compared with more than 75 percent of higher income children; and
4. **WHEREAS**, the more success a child achieves in school, the less likely he or she is to live in poverty as an adult, and the poverty rate of high school dropouts is three times that of those who graduate; and
5. **WHEREAS**, only about half of all Black, Hispanic, and Native American students who enter ninth grade will graduate 12<sup>th</sup> grade on time, and graduation rates in some cities for minority males as a group are even lower; and
6. **WHEREAS**, in contrast, the overall high school graduation rate in the U.S. is 68 percent, and for white students it is 75 percent,
7. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to:

- Strengthen its investment in quality neighborhood primary and secondary public schools;
- Increase its investment in all public schools so that all children have an equal opportunity to learn, and use the additional funding to improve teachers' salaries, finance school construction and modernization, make art and music education available to all students, encourage diverse and creative curricula, provide before- and after-school programming, and encourage a smaller student-to-teacher ratio in classrooms;
- Adopt the policy recommendations of the National Academies to improve K-12 science and mathematics education and provide support for recruiting more qualified teachers and setting higher standards for students;
- Reform the No Child Left Behind Act to address disincentives for high-quality teachers to teach at poorly performing urban schools;
- Fund demonstration projects designed to improve teacher quality across all grades of public schools;
- Consider options for reforming K-12 education bureaucracies to achieve savings and greater effectiveness;
- Encourage the development of and provide support for school district institution of student-centered contracts and increasing teacher pay to improve education results;
- Fully fund English as a Second Language programs in public schools; and
- Develop more effective approaches to student retention in drop-out prevention and mitigation programs - approaches which begin in the primary grades and continue through high school - and strategies which extend to students who have already dropped out, to reconnect them with school and jobs.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Francis Slay  
Mayor of St. Louis

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Frank Ortis  
Mayor of Pembroke Pines

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Thomas O'Grady  
Mayor of North Olmsted

#### **INCREASING ACCESS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

1. **WHEREAS**, while three-quarters of new job growth will require some training and education beyond high school, and between 2000 and 2020, the number of workers with at least some college education is projected to increase by just four percent; and
2. **WHEREAS**, a college education is increasingly unaffordable to a large portion of the public, as evidenced by the fact that since 1980 the inflation-adjusted cost of tuition at a four-year public college has increased by 190 percent while median family income has increased by only about 18 percent; and
3. **WHEREAS**, as of 2005, only 19 percent of working-age adults with incomes below the median income had earned a college credential, compared to more than 46 percent of higher income adults who had earned a credential; and
4. **WHEREAS**, high school graduates trying to pay for college currently turn to an array of credit subsidies provided by federal and state governments and private institutions; and
5. **WHEREAS**, while aid available for higher education has increased, borrowing to pay for college is not a viable long-term solution for many students because the debt payments will be beyond their ability to pay; and
6. **WHEREAS**, students from lower income families are finding they cannot afford college because costs have increased so much faster than the caps for federal subsidies, such as Pell Grants; and
7. **WHEREAS**, the Administration has proposed significantly cutting or eliminating funding for Adult Education, TRIO programs, and

vocational education - all important federal post-secondary education programs; and

8. **WHEREAS**, millions of low-income students don't benefit from current federal education tax incentives; and
9. **WHEREAS**, many states have state-sponsored college savings programs, but not all of them match contributions made by low- and moderate-income families to their accounts,
10. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the federal government to:
  - Increase the value of the Pell Grant for today's low-income students who cannot take advantage of lifetime learning accounts;
  - Protect existing programs and benefits that help create an educated and competitive work force: Pell Grants, Adult Education, TRIO programs, and vocational education;
  - Consider consolidating existing higher education tax credits, such as the Hope Scholarship, the Lifetime Learning Credit, and the higher education deduction, into a single consolidated College Tax Credit that could be used at accredited colleges or universities by students and workers seeking to start or continue their educations, and in conjunction with lifetime learning savings accounts; and
  - Link College Tax Credits to Individual Development Accounts to encourage low-income families to save, build assets, and work towards paying for post-secondary education; and
11. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors urges state governments to provide matching grants to low- and moderate-income families as part of their state-sponsored college savings programs.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

#### **SUPPORTING LIFETIME LEARNING SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

1. **WHEREAS**, sweeping changes are posing new challenges to the upward mobility of workers into the middle class, as well as to American prosperity more generally; and
2. **WHEREAS**, more that 37 million people in the U.S. are officially poor today despite the fact that one-half of poor families are now working; and
3. **WHEREAS**, to successfully boost economic opportunity and grow the middle class, the U.S. must broaden investments in poverty policy from their focus on helping yesterday's workers to boosting the prospects of more of tomorrow's workers; and
4. **WHEREAS**, this approach gives lower income Americans the tools to help themselves, positions the government to achieve long-term savings as the need for today's poverty-related programs declines, and - most importantly - takes advantage of some of the key opportunities to reduce poverty that have been created by the sweeping changes of our time; and
5. **WHEREAS**, globalizing trade and commerce has spurred demand for highly skilled labor and accountability in our educational system; and
6. **WHEREAS**, U.S. employers place a much higher premium on educational attainment and high-value job skills than in the past; and
7. **WHEREAS**, already, more than 60 percent of human resource managers express concern about the availability of skilled workers, reflected in part by the fact that the average time needed to fill a vacant position has increased from 37 to 51 days; and
8. **WHEREAS**, our nation faces the prospect of acute skills shortages; and
9. **WHEREAS**, three-quarters of new job growth will require some training and education beyond high school; and

10. **WHEREAS**, between 2000 and 2020, the number of workers with at least some college education is projected to increase by just four percent, while by contrast, between 1980 and 2000, this number rose by nearly 20 percent; and
11. **WHEREAS**, statistics like these have labor market experts very concerned that we are facing the prospect of a "skills gap" in the U.S. workforce demonstrated by an estimate of a U.S. shortfall of 14 million workers for skilled jobs by 2020, as job demands continue to rise but the education level of the workforce remains static; and
12. **WHEREAS**, the nation's current tools to address these shortages are too ineffective and inefficient to address this critical need and chief among these shortcomings, a college education is increasingly unaffordable to a large portion of the public; and
13. **WHEREAS**, since 1980, the inflation-adjusted cost of tuition at a four-year public college has increased by more than 190 percent; during that same time, median family income increased by only about 18 percent; and
14. **WHEREAS**, the result is a class bias in educational attainment: as of 2005, only 19 percent of working-age adults with incomes below the median income had earned a college credential compared with more than 46 percent of higher income adults; and
15. **WHEREAS**, high school graduates trying to pay for college currently turn to an array of credit and subsidies provided by the federal and state governments and private institutions, and while aid from these sources has increased, borrowing to pay for college is not a viable long-term solution because the debt payments will eventually be cost-prohibitive for many graduates; and
16. **WHEREAS**, already students from lower income families are finding they cannot afford college because costs have increased so much faster than the caps for federal subsidies such as Pell Grants; and
17. **WHEREAS**, only one-half of lower income children even begin college, compared with more than 75 percent of higher income children; and
18. **WHEREAS**, the more success a child achieves in school, the less likely he or she is to live in poverty as an adult. The poverty rate of high-school dropouts, for instance, is three times that of those who graduate; and
19. **WHEREAS**, one of every four American children drops out of high school before graduating; and

20. **WHEREAS**, this adds up to millions of young Americans who reach adulthood with dramatically lower chances for economic success; and
21. **WHEREAS**, the overwhelming majority of those who drop out spend much of their lives on the margins of the economy; and
22. **WHEREAS**, educational attainment is the best predictor of economic success as an adult; and
23. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted resolutions supporting increased access to secondary education and adult skills training,
24. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to open a savings account for every child born in this country, depositing up to \$500 at the child's birth and providing an annual income-indexed match of up to \$500 for deposits made by family and third parties, until the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday; and
25. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in order to create a powerful new incentive to complete high school, account holders will not be able to access these accounts until they graduate, thereby helping to lower the dropout rate, which is higher than 50 percent in some cities; and
26. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, funds can be used only for higher education or career training; and
27. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, funds withdrawn from this account should not be taxed.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

#### **PROVIDING FEDERAL AND STATE SUPPORT FOR CAREER ACADEMIES**

1. **WHEREAS**, sweeping changes are posing new challenges to the upward mobility of workers into the middle class, as well as to American prosperity more generally; and
2. **WHEREAS**, more that 37 million people in the U.S. are officially poor today despite the fact that one-half of poor families are now working; and
3. **WHEREAS**, to successfully boost economic opportunity and grow the middle class, the U.S. must broaden investments in poverty policy from their focus on helping yesterday's workers to boosting the prospects of more of tomorrow's workers; and
4. **WHEREAS**, this approach gives lower income Americans the tools to help themselves, positions the government to achieve long-term savings as the need for today's poverty-related programs declines, and - most importantly - takes advantage of some of the key opportunities to reduce poverty that have been created by the sweeping changes of our time; and
5. **WHEREAS**, today, more than 45 percent of public school students tested in kindergarten and middle school fail to achieve age-appropriate proficiency in reading and mathematics, and only 35 percent of our urban middle school students achieve proficiency in math; and
6. **WHEREAS**, lower income children consistently perform worse in achievement tests in both reading and mathematics than higher income children, and they make up a disproportionately large share of those who drop out, doing so at twice the overall rate; and

7. **WHEREAS**, only one-half of lower income children even begin college, compared with more than 75 percent of higher income children; and
8. **WHEREAS**, the more success a child achieves in school, the less likely he or she is to live in poverty as an adult, and the poverty rate of high school dropouts is three times that of those who graduate; and
9. **WHEREAS**, one of every four American children drops out of high school before graduating, and the Council of the Great City Schools reports that in major cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Dallas, fewer than one-half of entering ninth graders graduate high school within four years; and
10. **WHEREAS**, this adds up to millions of young Americans who reach adulthood with dramatically lower chances for economic success, as the overwhelming majority of those who drop out spend much of their lives on the margins of the economy; and
11. **WHEREAS**, mainstream high school education, with its focus on college preparation, does not speak to the aspirations or plans of millions of students; and
12. **WHEREAS**, the school-wide career academies model for K-12 education, by contrast, does address some of these goals by placing greater focus on preparation for jobs and careers, emphasizing career exploration through vocationally oriented instruction in fields ranging from graphic design and information technology to healthcare and teaching; and
13. **WHEREAS**, career academies typically serve between 150 and 200 high school students, combining traditional curricula with career-oriented training that is designed to better prepare students to move into the labor force; and
14. **WHEREAS**, high-performing career academies maintain partnerships with regional employers both to make students aware of their career options and provide work-based internships and other learning opportunities; and
15. **WHEREAS**, research indicates that students - especially young men - who matriculate through a career academy fare better after high school than those of similar circumstances who do not; and
16. **WHEREAS**, one recent study found that earnings for participants were higher by an average of \$212 per month than for youth who did not participate, an 18 percent difference in annual compensation; and
17. **WHEREAS**, the benefits of the career academy approach go beyond earnings; and

18. **WHEREAS**, program participants have shown higher rates of both high school completion and postsecondary enrollment than the national average; and
19. **WHEREAS**, employers also realize value by helping to inform the school curricula in their communities, better preparing the next generation of workers for jobs in their businesses; and
20. **WHEREAS**, current socio-economic trends are creating opportunities for career-track work that pays family-supporting wages but does not require a four-year college degree; and
21. **WHEREAS**, private as well as public sector employers are willing and able to train and then hire youth for career opportunities in work that offers family-supporting wages; and
22. **WHEREAS**, The United States Conference of Mayors has previously adopted resolutions which call for the creation of, and investment in, career academies and similar educational models,
23. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges federal, state and local governments to work together with private sector stakeholders to invest in expanding access to career exploration and preparation through career academies and other strategies; and
24. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors believes that schools should conform to well-tested standards of practice, and establish clear guidelines for evaluation of program effectiveness, including benchmarks for college and career success and student achievement.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Mayor of San Francisco

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Francis Slay  
Mayor of St. Louis

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

#### **STRENGTHENING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

1. **WHEREAS**, the Workforce Investment Act, the law creating nation's largest program for providing skills training, can provide training for less than one percent of the nation's workforce; and
2. **WHEREAS**, the federal government has cut funding for job training programs by over \$1 billion since FY 2002; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the Administration has proposed an additional \$950 million in funding cuts for job training programs in the FY 2008 budget; and
4. **WHEREAS**, the current federal restrictions on training do not allow for a variety of training tools and strategies necessary for individuals to gain skills to advance beyond entry level positions; and
5. **WHEREAS**, the nation faces the prospect of acute skills shortages, with one estimate indicating that the United States faces a shortfall of 14 million workers for skilled jobs by 2020, as job demands continue to rise but the education level of the workforce remains static; and
6. **WHEREAS**, the building trades continue to provide a steady supply of good paying jobs, often on projects which positively impact local economies, yet sufficient training and apprenticeship programs which prepare workers for jobs in the building trades are lacking; and
7. **WHEREAS**, local governments together with the business community and the workforce and education systems must identify strategies

needed to address the skills requirements demanded by the local labor market; and

8. **WHEREAS**, comprehensive skills training and education strategies must be part of local job training systems that align with the labor market demands of local economies where businesses - the end users of the system - are located,
9. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to:
  - Strengthen the Workforce Investment Act by increasing funding, improving regional and private-sector coordination, and expanding outreach to immigrants;
  - Provide incentives for public-private partnerships in workforce development;
  - Provide additional training and apprenticeship programs which prepare workers for jobs in the building trades;
  - Enlist regional employers as partners having a vested interest in the success of workforce development programs;
  - Provide adequate funding for federal programs which have demonstrated success in developing a competitive workforce, such as summer youth employment, Youth Incentive Entitlement Pilot Projects, adult education/G.E.D, literacy, Pell grants, TRIO, vocational education, and incumbent worker programs; and
10. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors calls on business leaders to:
  - Invest in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high school students;
  - Encourage employees (especially within large businesses) to participate in workforce development programs available in high schools, particularly those with lower college placement rates;
  - Work with educators and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is responsive to regional workforce trends;
  - Collaborate with state education and workforce leaders to identify key regional job trends;
  - Support federal and state standards-based education.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Francis Slay  
Mayor of St. Louis

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

#### INCREASING FUNDING FOR YOUTHBUILD

1. **WHEREAS**, there are 2.4 million young low-income adults in the United States between the ages of 16 and 24 who have left high school without a diploma or who are unemployed; and
2. **WHEREAS**, in YouthBuild programs, unemployed and undereducated young people ages 16-24 work toward their GED or high school diploma while learning job skills by building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people; and
3. **WHEREAS**, strong emphasis is placed on leadership development, community service, and the creation of a positive mini-community of adults and youth committed to success; and
4. **WHEREAS**, in YouthBuild programs the most disadvantaged youth are brought into the productive workforce; and
5. **WHEREAS**, in 2006 there were more than 220 YouthBuild programs in 42 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, engaging approximately 8,000 young adults; and
6. **WHEREAS**, from 2001 to 2005, 89 percent of YouthBuild students entered the program without their GED or diploma, 33 percent had been adjudicated, and 27 percent received public assistance prior to joining YouthBuild and, in spite of these overwhelming odds, 58 percent completed the program and 78 percent of graduates went on to college or jobs averaging \$8.41/hour; and
7. **WHEREAS**, YouthBuild is a public-private partnership in which each YouthBuild program secures its own funding, generally a mix of government (federal, state, and local) and private support; and

8. **WHEREAS**, federal support for YouthBuild was first authorized under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 1992 and reauthorized within the Workforce Investment Act under the U.S. Department of Labor by the YouthBuild Transfer Act (Public Law 109-281) in September 2006, when it passed by unanimous consent in both Houses of Congress and was signed into law by President George W. Bush; and
9. **WHEREAS**, since 1993 more than 68,000 YouthBuild students have produced over 16,000 units of low-income housing; and
10. **WHEREAS**, the nation's ability to reconnect unemployed and undereducated young adults is critical to workforce development, crime prevention, and economic development,
11. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal, state, and local governments to increase their investment in YouthBuild; and
12. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to increase the level of the annual funding for the YouthBuild program to at least \$140 million; and
13. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that the YouthBuild program is funded only from the excess of the amount appropriated for the WIA youth formula program when it is at a level of at least \$1 billion and not at the expense of the year-round program.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Francis Slay  
Mayor of St. Louis

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

#### **MAKING TANF WORK REQUIREMENTS MORE FLEXIBLE**

1. **WHEREAS**, on February 8, 2006, President George W. Bush signed budget legislation that extends the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program through 2010 and requires most states to substantially increase the number of parents receiving TANF who have jobs or are in training; and
2. **WHEREAS**, forcing individuals into the workforce without the proper career development skills will not break the cycle of poverty; and
3. **WHEREAS**, although TANF allows three educational activities - vocational education training, secondary school attendance, and education directly related to employment - to count toward a state's work participation rate, there are limitations:
  - Vocational education training can only count toward a recipient's work requirement for up to 12 months;
  - Education directly related to employment can only count toward the work requirement of an adult high school dropout or teen parent; and
  - No more than 30 percent of recipients counted toward the state's work participation rate may participate in vocational training or be a teen parent in secondary school,
4. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that TANF work requirements be waived to allow individuals to attend a community college or university to develop a career, not just a job; and
5. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that TANF regulations allow more flexibility so that participation in mental health and substance abuse programs can count towards meeting the "work participation" requirement.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

#### PROVIDING PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT

1. **WHEREAS**, unemployment and a lack of both skills and quality jobs are major causes of poverty; and
2. **WHEREAS**, in areas of high unemployment and stagnant job growth it is especially hard for low-skilled workers to obtain jobs; and
3. **WHEREAS**, public service employment would stabilize the workforce supply and increase wage stability for all workers; and
4. **WHEREAS**, over the years, the U.S. Department of Labor has funded public service employment programs targeted to economically disadvantaged or long-term unemployed individuals on a temporary, short-term basis as a means of providing income maintenance or human capital development for workers and valuable services for the community that would not otherwise have been available; and
5. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Labor is currently funding public service employment efforts through the Youthbuild program and a waiver provided to the State of Texas which permits public service employment under a National Emergency Grant for residents affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita,
6. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to provide funding for a public service employment program which hires economically disadvantaged and long-term unemployed individual to work in projects which address identified community needs.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Francis Slay  
Mayor of St. Louis

The Honorable Frank Ortis  
Mayor of Pembroke Pines

The Honorable Thomas O'Grady  
Mayor of North Olmsted

#### INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

1. **WHEREAS**, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long been an advocate of increasing the federal minimum wage to reduce the hardship on low-income workers; and
2. **WHEREAS**, real median income increased by 0.6 percent between 2004 and 2005, but all of that increase occurred among the top 20 percent of income earners, and the percentage change in real median income for each of the bottom four quintiles declined; and
3. **WHEREAS**, since September 1997, the purchasing power of the minimum wage has deteriorated by 20 percent and, after adjusting for inflation, the value of the minimum wage is at its lowest level since 1955; and
4. **WHEREAS**, wage inequality has been increasing, in part because of the declining real value of the minimum wage, which currently is 31 percent of the average hourly wage of American workers, the lowest level since the end of World War II; and
5. **WHEREAS**, Conference President Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi early in 2007 expressing support for legislation increasing the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour over the next two years; and
6. **WHEREAS**, Congress approved legislation on May 24 which was signed into law by the President on May 25 increasing the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour over the next two years,

7. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The United States Conference of Mayors commends Congress and the President for enacting legislation that will increase the federal minimum wage from the current level of \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour over the next two years.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

#### USING THE TAX CODE TO HELP LOWER INCOME FAMILIES DEVELOP ASSETS

1. **WHEREAS**, the Earned Income Tax Credit is the nation's largest wage support for low-income workers, currently benefiting more than 21 million of America's workers, or approximately 15 percent of the nation's labor force; and
2. **WHEREAS**, while the EITC is an effective support for many low-income workers, it does not provide needed assistance to most low-wage childless workers, and two-worker families are much less likely to qualify for the EITC than one-worker families; and
3. **WHEREAS**, renewing the Saver's Credit would provide matching contributions to retirement plans of up to 50 percent for families earning \$50,000 or less per year, up to a maximum of \$1,000; and
4. **WHEREAS**, California's "ReadyReturn" program has reduced the tax-filing burden for many eligible Californians through the State's use of information it already has on hand, such as that contained in W-2 forms, to provide taxpayers with a completed return which they can approve and submit to the State; and
5. **WHEREAS**, while most of the major new federal policy expansions that benefit lower and middle income households have happened through the tax code, most of the subsidies available have disparate eligibility standards, are difficult to understand, and vary between nonrefundable and refundable tax credits; and
6. **WHEREAS**, consolidating all of the existing tax credits into a Comprehensive Family Tax Credit could expand access to the various tax credits now available and ease administrative burdens and costs; and
7. **WHEREAS**, savings incentives, such as preferential tax treatment of IRAs and 401(k)s, do not help low- and moderate-income

families, and nearly two-thirds of the benefits go to the top 20 percent of income earners; and

8. **WHEREAS,** many low-income families and individuals are forced to go to expensive tax preparation services and thus spend a significant portion of the tax credits they are due just to be able to file a return,
9. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reform the federal tax code so that the benefits available to lower income families will be increased, simplified, and easier to access; and
10. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that specific reforms to the federal tax code include:
  - Substantially expanding the EITC so that it better rewards hard working, lower income families and expands eligibility for single adults by increasing the maximum benefit for childless, single adults from \$399 to \$1,600, allowing two-income households to deduct the lower of the two incomes from their eligibility, indexing the EITC to the minimum wage, and simplifying regulations to fit the current demographics and ensure that it is helping the people who need it most;
  - Increasing and making refundable the federal Saver's Credit, which provides matching contributions to families, providing further incentives for families to save;
  - Adopting California's "ReadyReturn" program, which would greatly simplify tax compliance for the great majority of Americans who do not itemize their taxes;
  - Considering the establishment of a Comprehensive Family Tax Credit which would pool together the many different policies that currently support lower income, working families;
  - Creating a single, consolidated Jobs Tax Credit to create jobs in high poverty areas;
  - Providing tax credits to employers and financial institutions that match savings of low-income employees and consumers;
  - Increasing 410(k) participation by encouraging companies to auto-enroll employees; and
11. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that free tax preparation services be available to lower income working families and individuals, and that an extensive outreach campaign be undertaken to encourage eligible families to take advantage of them.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

#### REVISING THE FEDERAL DEFINITION OF POVERTY

1. **WHEREAS**, the federal poverty threshold was originally developed in 1963-1964 using U.S. Department of Agriculture Food budgets designed for families under economic stress and data on the portion of income families spent on food alone; and
2. **WHEREAS**, while in the 1960's families spent about one-third of their income on food, today food accounts for about one-seventh of an average household's total expenditures, and about one-sixth of expenditures by households in the lowest income quintile;
3. **WHEREAS**, because there have been few changes to the formula for calculating the poverty threshold over the years, it does not take into account changes in the cost of basic necessities - particularly housing and health care - which 21<sup>st</sup> Century families must meet; and
4. **WHEREAS**, while the poverty threshold is adjusted for inflation and the number of household members, it is the same for cities and rural areas and throughout the contiguous 48 states; and
5. **WHEREAS**, because the current federal poverty line no longer represents the income that families must earn to meet the basic costs of daily life, it underestimates the number of individuals who are struggling to stay adequately fed, housed, employed, healthy, and educated; and
6. **WHEREAS**, an accurate calculation of the federal poverty rate is important to understanding the dimensions of the nation's economic needs; and

7. **WHEREAS**, the poverty rate is a significant factor in the allocation of funds in many federal formula grant programs,
8. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to revise the formula for calculating the federal poverty line so that it better reflects the amount that families must earn to meet the basic costs of daily life, and that it include factors such as housing, transportation, health care, and child care, in addition to the cost of food.

Projected cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable Kwame M.  
Kilpatrick  
Mayor of Detroit

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Mayor of San Francisco

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
Mayor of Trenton

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

**INCREASING WORKING FAMILIES' FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ACCESS TO BANKING SERVICES**

1. **WHEREAS**, many working families have never learned to effectively manage their finances, with the result that they often experience problems related to major purchases, particularly those involving a home or a car; and
2. **WHEREAS**, because of their lack of understanding of the financial services industry and the need for personal financial management skills, many Americans have poor credit and are subject to unfair and abusive practices; and
3. **WHEREAS**, credit cards have become a financial safety net for the many Americans who live from paycheck to paycheck; and
4. **WHEREAS**, a greater commitment among all levels of government and the private sector is needed to promote financial education and literacy; and
5. **WHEREAS**, many lower-income working families do not have access to mainstream financial services and must often pay high costs for check-cashing and other financial services; and
6. **WHEREAS**, access to mainstream financial services and improved personal income, money management, and planning skills can put working families in a better position to accumulate and retain wealth, own homes, raise healthy families, educate their children, and invest in small businesses,
7. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges that governments and the private sector make financial literacy education available to working families; and

8. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this education cover areas such as basic banking, electronic banking, basic investments, debt management, predatory lending, and home mortgages, and be provided through adult education classes, community-based organizations, and other local programs; and
9. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that government and the private sector work together to make more bank branches and responsible banking products available to families and individuals who live in underserved communities; and
10. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that banking institutions be encouraged to establish accounts for everyone, starting at birth, by exempting low-income workers and other eligible individuals from some or all fees for checking or other accounts and by levying only reasonable charges for checks written on accounts that have insufficient funds.

Projected Cost: Unknown

Submitted by:

The Honorable Richard M. Daley  
Mayor of Chicago

The Honorable Robert Duffy  
Mayor of Rochester (NY)

The Honorable David N. Cicilline  
Mayor of Providence

The Honorable Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville

The Honorable Ron Dellums  
Mayor of Oakland

The Honorable Douglas H. Palmer  
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The Honorable Manuel A. Diaz  
Mayor of Miami

The Honorable Antonio R.  
Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles

### FUNDING THE 2010 CENSUS

1. **WHEREAS**, the United States Bureau of the Census is preparing to conduct the 2010 census to update census data used to determine, among other things, each state's Congressional representation as well as the amount of federal funds each state and local community will receive from various federal programs; and
2. **WHEREAS**, in previous census counts including 1980, 1990 and 2000, mayors across the nation have expressed concerns that high levels of low-income individuals have been undercounted and as a result cities have missed out on millions of dollars in federal funds for federal programs, including those serving low-income families; and
3. **WHEREAS**, in preparation for the 2010 census, the United States Census Bureau has reengineered the decennial census with three goals in mind: (1) to reduce operational risk, (2) improve the accuracy and relevance of data, (3) and contain the overall cost of the census; and
4. **WHEREAS**, to better ensure a more accurate count in 2010, the Census Bureau must receive the resources it needs to plan and conduct an accurate count of all individuals residing in the United States; and
5. **WHEREAS**, Congress approved the President's budget request for fiscal year 2007 which will enable the Census Bureau to continue its long term planning for the 2010 census, to continue development of Global Positioning System (GPS)-equipped handheld computers for use in the 2008 Dress Rehearsal and the 2010 census, as well as full implementation of the American Community Survey; and

6. **WHEREAS**, the Administration has requested an increase in funds for fiscal year 2008 to ramp up efforts in preparation for the 2010 census and allow the Census Bureau to continue planning, testing, and developing activities, including the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal; conducting the American Community Survey to replace the traditional long form; and improving the accuracy of map feature locations, using GPS coordinates;
7. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the President and Congress to support adequate funding of the 2010 census so that long-term planning can begin now; the 2010 census can be designed to more accurately identify and count all segments of the city's population, including low-income individuals; and federal funds supporting low-income populations can be more accurately allocated among states and local communities.

Projected Cost: Unknown