



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352
URL: www.usmayors.org

June 25, 2009

President:
GREG NICKELS
Mayor of Seattle
Vice President:
ELIZABETH B. KAUTZ
Mayor of Burnsville
Second Vice President:
ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor of Los Angeles

Past Presidents:
JERRY E. ABRAMSON
Mayor of Louisville
RICHARD M. DALEY
Mayor of Chicago
MANUEL A. DIAZ
Mayor of Miami
THOMAS M. MENINO
Mayor of Boston
DOUGLAS H. PALMER
Mayor of Trenton
DONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC
Mayor of Akron
JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
Mayor of Charleston, SC

Trustees:
J. CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE
Mayor of Elizabeth
MARTIN J. CHAVEZ
Mayor of Albuquerque
MICHAEL B. COLEMAN
Mayor of Columbus, OH
MICK CORNETT
Mayor of Oklahoma City
MUFU HANNEMANN
Mayor of Honolulu
PATRICK HENRY HAYS
Mayor of North Little Rock
BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Mayor of Southfield
THOMAS C. LEPPERT
Mayor of Dallas
DANNEL P. MALLOY
Mayor of Stamford
ARLENE J. MULDER
Mayor of Arlington Heights
MICHAEL NUTTER
Mayor of Philadelphia
DAVID W. SMITH
Mayor of Newark, CA
KATHRYN L. TAYLOR
Mayor of Tulsa
ELAINE N. WALKER
Mayor of Bowling Green

Advisory Board:
JUAN CARLOS BERMUDEZ
Mayor of Doral
RALPH BECKER
Mayor of Salt Lake City
ROBERT L. BOWSER
Mayor of East Orange
JAMES BRAINARD
Mayor of Carmel, IN
DAVID N. CICILLINE
Mayor of Providence
ROBERT CLUCK
Mayor of Arlington, TX
JOY COOPER
Mayor of Hallandale Beach
T.M. FRANKLIN CORNWIE
Mayor of Des Moines
ROBERT J. DUFFY
Mayor of Rochester, NY
BILL FINCH
Mayor of Bridgeport
BOB FOSTER
Mayor of Long Beach
SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
Mayor of Atlanta
MICHAEL A. GIN
Mayor of Redondo Beach
OSCAR B. GOODMAN
Mayor of Las Vegas
JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER
Mayor of Denver
DARWIN HINDMAN
Mayor of Columbia
JAMES W. HOLLEY, III
Mayor of Portsmouth
HARVEY JOHNSON
Mayor of Jackson, MS
RON LITTLEFIELD
Mayor of Chattanooga
MARK MALLORY
Mayor of Cincinnati
JOHN MARKS
Mayor of Tallahassee
PATRICK MCCRORY
Mayor of Charlotte
GAVIN NEWSOM
Mayor of San Francisco
FRANK C. ORTIS
Mayor of Pembroke Pines
MIGUEL A. PULIDO
Mayor of Santa Ana
RAUL G. SALINAS
Mayor of Laredo
JAMES J. SCHMITT
Mayor of Green Bay
FRANCIS G. SLAY
Mayor of St. Louis
SCOTT SMITH
Mayor of Mesa
BRIAN C. WAHLER
Mayor of Piscataway

CEO and Executive Director:
TOM COCHRAN

The Honorable Jim McDermott
Chairman, House Subcommittee on
Income Security and Family Supports
House Committee on Ways and Means
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McDermott:

I am writing on behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors in support of *HR 2909 "The Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009."* In these uncertain economic times, the nation's mayors believe it is important that the tool used to measure poverty be reflective of modern realities.

Earlier this month, at our 77th Annual Meeting, the mayors reaffirmed their strong support for developing a national-poverty measure that accounts for costs and expenditures of today's working families. The mayors adopted policy that recommends the federal government revise the formula for calculating the federal poverty line so that it better reflects the amount which families must earn to meet the basic costs of daily life, and that it include factors such as the cost of housing, transportation, health care and child care, in addition to the cost of food. Changing this measurement also was one of the top priorities of the USCM Poverty, Work and Opportunity Task Force, chaired by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

We believe that accurately measuring poverty creates a fairer and more balanced playing field for those families struggling to meet their basic needs. We look forward to working with you to pass this much-needed legislation.

If you have questions please feel free to contact Conference staff Crystal D. Swann at (202) 861-6707.

Sincerely,

Greg Nickels
Mayor of Seattle
President

Tom Cochran
Executive Director