



Advocacy Update

Sent September 1, 2010

WRJ has signed a letter with one-hundred and twenty other national organizations urging the members of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform to take special care not to cause harm to America's low- and moderate-income households in developing their recommendations to reduce our nation's deficit. The commission, co-chaired by former Clinton administration Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles and former Senator Alan Simpson, will forward proposals, approved by fourteen of its eighteen bipartisan members, to Congress. Deficit reduction should build a strong economy, with economic security shared by all.

The letter to the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform is now open for signing to local and state organizations to demonstrate that local and state groups across the country share these concerns.

Sisterhood presidents, please read the letter for more information, then please sign it for your sisterhood, before September 8th, to urge the commission to commit to preventing harm to low/moderate-income people in its recommendations.

Poverty Rises in the United States

The most current poverty statistics for 2009 will be released by the Census Bureau on September 16th. The economic predictions suggest that this will be the largest increase of poverty in one year on record and that nearly one in four youngsters lived in poverty last year.

The Half in Ten campaign to cut poverty and the Coalition on Human Needs will hold a national webcast, "Stories Behind the Statistics: What the 2009 Poverty and Income Data Mean for Your Community," on September 21st at 2:00 p.m. EST. Register and join this webcast to become informed about what these statistics represent to individuals and to our nation.

You can also take action now to reduce poverty in our nation. Half in Ten tells us that The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund, which is due to expire on September 30th, "has enabled thirty-five states to partner with the private sector to create more than 240,000 new jobs for low-income and long-term unemployed workers and to meet the rising need for services."

Urge your members of Congress to extend the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund to save up to 240,000 jobs and prevent cuts in critical programs for low-income families!