ACTION ALERT

DATE: September 3, 2010
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP URGES PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE JOB CREATION LEGISLATION IN BOTH THE US HOUSE AND SENATE WHEN CONGRESS RETURNS FROM LABOR DAY

THE LOCAL JOBS FOR AMERICA ACT WOULD CREATE A MILLION PUBLIC AND PRIVATE JOBS THIS YEAR AND PUT AMERICANS WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES BACK TO WORK WHILE IMPROVING STATE AND LOCAL SERVICES

THE ISSUE:
Our nation is going through one of the most difficult economic times in its history. The national unemployment rate has stubbornly remained unacceptably high, especially among African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority Americans. Since the fall of 2009 the national unemployment rate has stayed near 10%; during the same time the unemployment rate among African Americans has been between 15.2% in November 2009 and 17.3% in January 2010. At the same time, states and local municipalities are facing severe budget cuts. As a result, many communities are finding it difficult, if not impossible, to meet the very basic educational, health care, public safety, child care and public transportation needs of their residents.

As a federal response, Congressman George Miller (CA), the Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee and Senator Sherrod Brown (OH), have introduced H.R. 4812 / S. 3500, the Local Jobs for America Act. This legislation responds to the needs that are being felt in every corner of our country, and by every demographic. H.R. 4812 / S. 3500 would create a million public and private jobs this year and put those Americans who are struggling to support their families back to work, while at the same time helping states and municipalities meet the basic needs of their communities. Support will be targeted directly to states and municipalities with the greatest number of people out of work and will help those communities by focusing the jobs in the areas of education, public safety, childcare, health care, and public transportation. By supporting the services local communities deem most necessary, the bill will help local governments avoid having to choose between eliminating services and raising taxes. Furthermore, by increasing employment in local communities, families will be able to start spending again at their neighborhood businesses and favorite restaurants. This will help spur additional jobs for local small businesses. The Local Jobs for America Act will also fund salaries for private sector on-the-job training to help local businesses put people back to work.

Specifically, the Local Jobs for America Act invests $75 billion over two years in local communities and allows them to hire vital staff; funding for 50,000 on-the-job private-sector training positions; $23 billion this year to help states support 250,000 education jobs; $1.18 billion to put 5,500 law enforcement officers on the beat; and $500 million to retain, rehire, and hire firefighters.

The NAACP strongly supports H.R. 4812 / S. 3500, the Local Jobs for America Act and encourages members of both the House and the Senate to quickly pass comprehensive jobs legislation to address not only the unemployment crisis facing our nation, but also the challenges being faced by states and local municipalities in meeting the basic education, public safety, health care, child care, and public transportation needs of our communities.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT H.R. 4812 / S. 3500, COMPREHENSIVE JOBS LEGISLATION THAT ALSO INVESTS IN THE BASIC NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**

To write letters to your Senators, send them to:

The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.  20510

To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:

The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.  20515

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ or Representative’s offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on “Find Your Senators”. Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.

To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “Write Your Representative” (on the left hand side, just under “find your Representative). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- Our nation is going through one of the most difficult economic times in its history. The national unemployment rate has stubbornly remained unacceptably high, especially among African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority Americans. Since the fall of 2009 the national unemployment rate has stayed near 10%; during the same time the unemployment rate among African Americans has been between 15.2% in November 2009 and 17.3% in January 2010. At the same time, states and local municipalities are facing severe budget cuts. As a result, many communities are finding it difficult to meet the very basic educational, health care, public safety, child care and public transportation needs of their residents.

- We need a comprehensive federal response that not only provides jobs to unemployed Americans, but also helps our states and local municipalities meet the basic educational, public safety, health care, child care and public transportation needs of our communities without raising taxes.

- The NAACP strongly supports H.R. 4812 / S. 3500, the Local Jobs for America Act and encourages members of both the House and the Senate to quickly pass comprehensive jobs legislation to address our nation’s unemployment crisis, but also the challenges being faced by our communities in meeting our basic education, public safety, health care, child care, and public transportation needs.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!

If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

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To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org
The Honorable ___________________________
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.  20510 / 20515

RE:  SUPPORT FOR COMPREHENSIVE JOBS LEGISLATION

Dear Senator / Representative ______________________________;

As your constituent, I strongly encourage you to support aggressive, comprehensive job creation legislation that will also help our struggling states and municipalities meet the educational, public safety, health care, child care and public transportation needs of our communities. Specifically, I support legislation such as H.R. 4812 / S. 3500, the Local Jobs for America Act, introduced by Congressman George Miller (CA) and Senator Sherrod Brown (OH) which addresses the continuing problem of high unemployment in our nation whole while also helping our communities meet their most basic obligations to their citizens.

Our nation is going through one of the most difficult economic times in its history. The national unemployment rate has stubbornly remained unacceptably high, especially among African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority Americans. Since the fall of 2009 the national unemployment rate has stayed near 10%; during the same time the unemployment rate among African Americans has been between 15.2% in November 2009 and 17.3% in January 2010. At the same time, states and local municipalities are facing severe budget cuts. As a result, many communities are finding it difficult, if not impossible, to meet the very basic educational, health care, public safety, child care and public transportation needs of their residents.

That is why legislation such as H.R. 4812 / S. 3500 is so important. H.R. 4812 / S. 3500 would create a million public and private jobs this year and put those Americans who are struggling to support their families back to work, while at the same time helping states and municipalities meet the basic needs of their communities. Support will be targeted directly to states and municipalities with the greatest number of people out of work and will help those communities by focusing the jobs in the areas of education, public safety, childcare, health care, and public transportation. By supporting the services local communities deem most necessary, the bill will help local governments avoid having to choose between eliminating services and raising taxes.

Please do all you can to help our out-of-work brothers and sisters as well as our communities. Please support comprehensive, aggressive job creation legislation. I look forward to hearing from you soon so that I can know what you are doing, and I hope you will let me know what I can do to assist you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)