Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS
& Education
2358 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS
& Education
1016 Longworth HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Rehberg and Ranking Members Dicks and DeLauro:

As you know, the administration's Fiscal Year 2012 budget request contains a $350 million funding cut for Community Services Block Grants (CSBG). We recognize the challenging fiscal environment in which our country is currently operating; however, we believe that severe cuts to CSBGs - the source of funding for community action programs - would hinder, rather than help, our nation's economic recovery while devastating critical support services for the poor, disabled, children and the elderly. Accordingly, as the Subcommittee and the Full Committee conduct their work on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2012, we respectfully request funding for CSBGs at a minimum of $680 million- the FY2011 level as enacted.

CSBGs provide a lifeline for our country's most vulnerable citizens. Community action programs are the federal government's only comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of vulnerable citizens and helping struggling Americans get the services they need to achieve economic security. Covering 1,065 agencies in 99 percent of U.S. counties, community action programs last year provided employment, education and housing to 20.7 million Americans facing an array of enormous challenges ranging from extreme poverty and disability to lack of employment and shelter. Community action programs created and retained 18,432 jobs over the past two years, ranking 8th out of approximately 200 federal Recovery Act programs.

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We believe that CSBG-funded projects will help ensure low-income Americans achieve economic security and become productive, contributing members of society. We appreciate your consideration of our request for no less than $680 million in the FY12 Appropriations bill and stand ready to work with you as we confront the challenges facing our nation in the future.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

John Conyers, Jr.

Fortney Pete Stark

Louise M. Slaughter

Jason Altmire

Howard L. Berman

Elijah E. Cummings

Peter DeFazio

Mike Doyle

Bob Filner

Diana DeGette

Anna G. Eshoo

Sam Farr

Barney Frank

Jay Inslee

Steve Israel

Ron Kind

Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Jerrold Nadler

Tammy Baldwin

Tim Bishop

Madeleine Bordallo

Michael Capuano

Judy Chu

Hansen Clarke

Steve Cohen

Joe Courtney

Keith Ellison

Al Green

Collin Peterson

Karen Bass

Dan Boren

Lois Capps

Andre Carson

David Cicilline

Yvette Clark

Jim Costa

Mark Critz

Marcia Fudge

Raúl Grijalva

Luis Gutierrez

Alcee L. Hastings

Maurice Hinchey

Tim Holden

Dale Kildee

Sander Levin

Ben Ray Luján

James P. McGovern

Michael Michaud

Richard E. Neal

Carolyn B. Maloney

Colleen Hanabusa

Jim Himes

Mazie K. Hirono

William R. Keating

James R. Langevin

Dave Loebsack

Stephen F. Lynch

Gregory W. Meeks

Gwen Moore

Eliot L. Engel

Dennis J. Kucinich

Chris Murphy

Pedro Pierluisi

Laura Richardson

Loretta Sanchez

Terri Sewell

Betty Sutton

Paul Tonko

Niki Tsongas

Frederica Wilson

David Wu

Russ Carnahan

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Chellie Pingree

Linda Sanchez

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Albio Sires

John F. Tierney

Edolphus Towns

Peter Welch

Lynn Woolsey

Nick J. Rahall II

Silvestre Reyes