

State and Local Organizations Opposing the Balanced Budget Amendment

July 18, 2011

Dear Senator Levin:

The undersigned national organizations strongly urge you to oppose any balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.

A balanced budget constitutional amendment would damage the economy, not strengthen it. Demanding that policymakers cut spending and/or raise taxes, even when the economy slows, is the opposite of what is needed to stabilize a weak economy and avert recessions. Such steps would risk tipping a faltering economy into recession or worsening an ongoing downturn, costing large numbers of jobs while blocking worthy investments to stimulate jobs and growth and address the nation's urgent needs in infrastructure and other areas.

Furthermore, the version of the balanced budget amendment that the House Judiciary Committee recently approved (H. J. Res. 1) would impose an arbitrary and severe cap on total federal spending, which, remarkably, would require much deeper cuts than the draconian cuts in the Ryan budget resolution. The bill also would require supermajority votes in the House and Senate to increase the debt limit, waive the balanced budget requirement—or to raise any taxes, including closing the most egregious tax loopholes. This irresponsible requirement would create an extremely steep hurdle to raising any revenues—effectively blocking revenue measures even as part of packages to restore long-term solvency to Social Security and Medicare—while protecting the more than \$1 trillion a year in “tax expenditures” and forcing severe program cuts.

In short, this amendment is a recipe for making recessions more frequent, longer, and deeper, while requiring severe cuts that would harshly affect seniors, children, veterans, people with disabilities, homeland security activities, public safety, environmental protection, education and medical research. It would almost certainly necessitate massive cuts to vital programs including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits and other programs, and, as noted, lead to even deeper cuts than the House-passed budget.

A responsible deficit reduction plan must embrace both spending cuts and new revenues, including curbing special-interest tax loopholes, not a one-sided reliance on spending cuts.

A balanced budget amendment has no place in the Constitution of the United States. Our Constitution has served the nation well because it represents enduring principles that are the foundations of our government. It should not be used as a substitute for real leadership on fiscal policy.

We strongly urge you to oppose any constitutional balanced budget amendment.

Sincerely,

List of Organizational Signers:

Michigan

Center for Civil Justice
Leadership Council of Sisters, Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
LoLaDiVa Designs
Michigan Alliance of Cooperatives
Michigan Education Association

Michigan League for Human Services
Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network
RESULTS - Detroit
TrainingWorks
Vaishnava Center for Enlightenment Inc.
W. C. Management Non Profit Housing

All States

504 Democrat Club
9to5 Atlanta Working Women
9to5 Milwaukee
A Minnesota Without Poverty
A World Fit For Kids!
Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc.
Achievement Centers for Children
ACLU of Florida
Action for Children North Carolina
Action NC
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region
Advocacy for Peace and Justice Committee of the
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Affirmative Options Coalition
AFGE Local 3937, AFL-CIO
AFSCME Florida Council 79
AFSCME Iowa Council 61
AFSCME Wisconsin
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Alabama Arise
All About Developmental Disabilities
All Our Kin, Inc.
ARC Group Homes, Inc.
Arizona Education Association Retired
Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families
Arkansas Education Association
Arkansas Interfaith Alliance
Asociacion de Agencias Comunales de PR
Atonement Lutheran Church
Augustinians
Avant-Garde Foster Family Agency, Inc.
Bay State Child Care Food Program, Inc.
Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health Authority (BABHA)
Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc
Benedictines For Peace-Pittsburgh
Bethany Baptist Church
Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central OH
Bradford/Tioga County Housing & Redevelopment
Authority
Brain Injury Association of Minnesota
Brainstormers Inc.
Brazos Valley Community Action Agency, Inc.
Brindle Foundation
Building Movement Project
C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Association of Food Banks
California Association of Social Rehabilitation
Agencies (CASRA)
California Budget Project
California Food Policy Advocates
California Housing Partnership Corporation

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Partnership
California Reinvestment Coalition
California Teachers Association
California WIC Association
California/Nevada Community Action
Campaign for Better Health Care, Illinois
Catalyst Miami (formerly Human Services Coalition)
CCO- Communities Creating Opportunity
Cedarville Community Church
Center for Civil Justice
Center for Food Action
Center for Human Potential
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.
Center for Public Policy Priorities
Center for Working Families
Central Carmel Preservation Association
Central New York Alliance for Retired Americans
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
Chattanooga's and North Georgians for Economic
Rights (CHANGERS)
Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance
Chicago Democratic Socialists of America
Chicago Jobs Council
Chicago Rehab Network
Child and Family Policy Center
Child Care Connections at Pathways of Central Ohio
Children & Families of Iowa
Children First Family Daycare
Children First/Communities In Schools of Buncombe
County
Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
Children's Alliance of Washington
Christ Lutheran Church
Church of St. Andrew
Citizen Action of Wisconsin
Citizens for Educational Awareness
Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice,
Los Angeles
Clinica Project Esperanze
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
Collaborative Center for Justice
Colonna Consulting LLC
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Conservation Voters
Colorado Education Association
Colorado Environmental Coalition
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
Colorado Progressive Coalition
Colorado School and Public Employees Retirement
Association

Committee Against Domestic Abuse, Inc.
 Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis
 Community Action Committee of Pike Co.
 Community Action Marin
 Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino
 County
 Community Development Corporation Resource
 Consortium, Inc. (CDCRC)
 Community Food Advocates
 Community Food Security Coalition
 Community Healthcare Network
 Community Health-In-Partnership Services (CHIPS)
 Community Intervention Center of Lackawanna
 County
 Community Service Programs of West Alabama, Inc.
 Community Services Of Moses Lake
 Community, Culture and Heritage, Inc.
 Comprehensive Community Solutions, Inc.
 Concilio Latino de Salud, Inc.
 Connecticut Association for Human Services
 Connecticut Community Development Assoc.
 Connecticut Housing Coalition
 Connecticut Voices for Children
 Cornucopia Community Advocates
 Covering Kentucky Kids and Families
 Crossroads Urban Center
 Culture Connect, Inc.
 Dads Make a Difference
 Davidson/Site 166 Resident Association Inc –
 NYCHA
 DBG Communications, Inc.
 Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and
 Families
 Delaware Housing Coalition
 Delaware Public Employees Council 81 AFSCME
 AFL-CIO
 Delawareans for Social and Economic Justice
 Differently Abled Student Union
 Direct Action Welfare Group
 Disabilities Network of New York City
 Disability Rights Wisconsin
 Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York
 Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness
 Early Care & Learning Council
 Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and
 Training
 East Missouri Action Agency, Inc.
 East Side Neighborhood Development Company
 Easter Seals Southern Georgia
 ECHO, Inc. Food Bank & CSFP
 Educational Association of Worcester
 Elev8 Chicago
 Empire Justice Center
 Encuentro
 End Hunger Connecticut!
 Englewood Housing Authority (Colorado)
 Englewood Housing Authority (New Jersey)
 Everywoman Opportunity Center, Inc
 Faith Action Network
 Family Care Council
 Family Connection of Easton, Inc.
 Federal Education Association
 Filipino Advocates for Justice
 FISH Food Banks of Pierce County
 FLARA, FL Alliance for Retired Americans
 Florida Community Health Action Information
 Network (CHAIN)
 Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy
 Florida Education Association
 Florida Impact
 Florida State Conference NAACP
 Food Bank For New York City
 Food Bank of Central New York
 Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
 Food Bank of Lincoln
 Food Bank of Northern Nevada
 Foodshare
 Foundation for Senior Living
 Franciscan Sisters of Allegany Justice, Peace and
 Integrity of Creation Commission
 Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls Justice, Peace &
 Integrity of Creation Commission
 Full Access
 Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness
 Georgia Budget & Policy Institute
 Georgia Rural Urban Summit
 Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of New York
 Gilead Community Services
 Gilman Housing Trust, Inc.
 Goldie's Place
 Goodwill Homes Community Services, Inc.
 Gray Panthers of Suffolk County
 Gray Panthers, NYC Network
 Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger
 Greater Syracuse Tenants Network
 Green Peace Corps
 Guam Communications Network
 Hammond Housing Authority
 Harborquest, Inc.
 Health & Disability Advocates
 Health For All
 Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human
 Rights
 Helena Indian Alliance
 HelpHotline Crisis Center
 Helping Hands Ministry
 Henderson and Winder, LLC
 Holy Family Ministries

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, JPIC-USA
 HOME Line
 Housing Action Illinois
 Housing Action NH
 Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
 Housing Authority of Billings
 Housing Authority of the City of Las Cruces, NM
 Housing Community Development Network of NJ
 Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery
 County, MD
 Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia Inc.
 Houston Peace and Justice Center
 Human Facets International
 Human Services Programs of Carroll County. Inc.
 Hunger Free Vermont
 Hunger Solutions Minnesota
 Hunger Solutions New York, Inc.
 Hunger Task Force
 Huntington Area Food Bank
 ICC
 Idaho Education Association
 Illinois Association of School Social Workers
 Illinois Education Association
 Illinois Hunger Coalition
 Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
 Imagination Station
 Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of
 the World (IBPOE of W)
 Independent Living Services of Northern California
 Institute for Wisconsin's Future
 Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
 International Institute of the Bay Area
 Iowa Book Works
 Iowa Environmental Council
 Iowa Policy Project
 Iowa State Education Association
 Island Harvest
 JC & Associate
 Jewish Community Action
 Joyland Child Development Center, Inc.
 Just Harvest: A Center for Action Against Hunger
 Justice Outreach of Racine Dominicans
 Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Commission,
 Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
 Kansas City Criminal Justice Task Force
 Kansas National Education Association
 KCEOC Financial Services Corporation
 Kebaya Coaching ~ Consulting
 Kennedy Krieger Institute
 Kentucky Center for Economic Policy
 Kentucky State AFL-CIO
 Kentucky Task Force on Hunger
 Kentucky Youth Advocates
 Khmer Health Advocates
 KinderCare
 Knowles Financial Advisors
 La Fe Policy Research and Education Center
 La Junta/Otero County Housing Authority
 La Union Estudiantil de la Raza (UER)
 Lake County Community Action Partnership
 Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau, Inc.
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 Latina Initiative
 Leadership Council of Sisters, Servants of the
 Immaculate Heart of Mary
 LeFlore Communications, LLC
 Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio
 Libreria del Pueblo, Inc
 LIFT-The Bronx
 Listening House of St. Paul
 LoLaDiVa Designs
 Long Term Care Community Coalition
 Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations
 Louisiana Budget Project
 Louisiana Consumer Healthcare Coalition
 Madison-area Urban Ministry
 Mae's Place Home Daycare
 Maine Center for Economic Policy
 Maine Children's Alliance
 Maine Education Association
 Maine Equal Justice Partners, Inc.
 Marguerite's Place, Inc.
 Mary Ellen McCormack Tenant Task Force Inc
 Maryland State Education Association
 Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants
 Massachusetts Citizens for Children
 Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
 Massachusetts Teachers Association
 Maternal and Child Health Access
 Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
 MDC
 MDI Imported Car Service, Inc.
 Mental Health America of Colorado
 Mental Health America of Virginia
 Mental Health Association of New York City
 Methodist Federation for Social Action, Iowa Chapter
 Metro New York Health Care for All Campaign
 Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Saint Louis
 Michigan Alliance of Cooperatives
 Michigan Education Association
 Michigan League for Human Services
 Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network
 Mid Hudson Valley Homeless Management
 Information System (HMIS)
 Middlesex County Coalition on Housing and
 Homelessness
 Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
 Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council

Minnesota Budget Project
 Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
 Minnesota Community Action Partnership
 Minnesota Council of Nonprofits - Northeast Chapter
 Minnesota Head Start Association
 Minnesota Housing Partnership
 Minnesota Image Co.
 Minnesota Public Health Association
 Minnesota Valley Action Council, Inc
 Missouri Alliance for Retired Americans
 Missouri Association for Social Welfare
 Missouri Budget Project
 Missouri Family Health Council
 Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance
 Missouri Health Care for All
 Missouri National Education Association
 Missouri ProVote
 Missouri Rural Crisis Center
 Montana Budget and Policy Center
 Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual
 Violence
 Montana Coalition for the Homeless
 Montana Education Association - Montana
 Federation of Teachers
 Montana Food Bank Network
 Montana National Association of Housing and
 Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO)
 Montana Organizing Project
 Montana Small Business Alliance
 Montana Women Vote
 MPOWER
 Musikanten
 Nana's Wish
 Natick Housing Authority
 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) –
 Missouri
 National Assn. of Social Workers- Sarasota Chapter
 National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter
 National Association of State Head Injury
 Administrators
 National Consumer Advisory Board (NCAB)
 National Council for Community and Education
 Partnerships (NCCEP)
 National Council of Jewish Women - Missouri
 National Council of Jewish Women - PA State
 Public Affairs
 National Council of Jewish Women RI
 National Council of Jewish Women Texas State
 Public Affairs
 National Council of Jewish Women, California
 State Public Affairs
 National Council of Jewish Women, Illinois State
 Public Affairs Committee
 National Council of Jewish Women, NJ State
 Public Affairs
 National Jobs for All Coalition
 NC Budget and Tax Center
 NC Justice Center
 Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public
 Interest
 Neighborhood Family Services Coalition
 Neighborhood House Association, Inc.
 Nevada Public Health Foundation
 Nevada State Education Association
 New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute
 New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition
 New Jersey Association of Mental Health and
 Addiction Agencies
 New Jersey Association of Mental Health and
 Addiction Agencies, Inc (NJMHAA)
 New Jersey Policy Perspective
 New Jersey Tenants Organization
 New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
 New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness
 New Mexico Collaboration to End Hunger
 New Mexico National Education Association
 New Mexico Voices for Children
 New Orleans Bread for the World
 New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation
 Services
 New York City Coalition Against Hunger
 New York State Community Action Association
 New York State United Teachers
 New York Statewide Senior Action Council
 Nightsweats & T-cells, Co
 NM Coalition to End Homelessness
 North Carolina Association of Educators
 North Carolina Social Justice Project
 North Carolina Tuberos Sclerosis Assn., Inc.
 North Dakota Education Association
 North Dakota Women's Network
 Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA)
 Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
 Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association
 Northwest Community Action, Inc
 Northwest Harvest
 Northwest Health Law Advocates
 Northwest Housing Development
 Northwestern Ohio CAC
 Norwalk Housing Authority
 Nutrition First
 Ohio Association of Community Health Centers
 Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks
 Ohio Children's Foundation
 Ohio Education Association
 Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health
 Ohio Poverty Law Center

Oklahoma Education Association
 One Stop Career center of PR
 One Wisconsin Now
 Open Access Connections
 Opportunity Housing Inc. (OHI)
 Oregon AFSCME Council 75
 Oregon Center for Public Policy
 Oregon Education Association
 Oregon Primary Care Association
 Oregon Rural Action
 Our Bodies Ourselves
 PA Coalition to End Homelessness
 PA Partnerships for Children
 Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
 Partners in Healthy Communities
 PATH, Inc.
 Paullina Monthly Meeting
 Pax Christi Northeast Florida
 Pax Christi Northwest Minnesota
 Peace & Justice Committee, Oberlin Ohio
 Peace Action
 Peace and Freedom Party of California
 Peace with Justice Ministries
 Peninsula Counseling Center
 Pennsylvania Council of Churches
 Pennsylvania Hunger Action Center
 Pennsylvania State Education Association
 People Living Through Cancer
 People of Faith CT
 PHAR- Charlottesville Public Housing Association
 of Residents
 Phyllis Wheatley Community Center
 Pierce County Housing Authority
 Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD
 Planned Parenthood of Montana
 Plymouth Shiloh Food Pantry
 PMG Associates Inc
 Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc
 Productive Alternatives, Inc.
 Progressive Democrats of the Santa Monica
 Mountains (PDSMM)
 Progressives of the Verde Valley
 Project People Lacking Ample Shelter and
 Employment, Inc. (PLASE)
 Project Bread - The Walk for Hunger
 Project for Pride in Living
 Project Illinois Religious Engaging in Nonviolent
 Endeavors (IRENE)
 PROMO
 Prosperity Works
 Protestants for the Common Good
 Providence Connections
 Public Citizens for Children and Youth
 Public Housing Resident Network
 Public Justice Center
 Public Policy Center of Mississippi
 Putnam Housing Authority
 Queens Community House
 Rapid Response Home Health Care
 Recovery Concepts Addiction Counseling Services, Inc.
 RePHRAME
 RESULTS - Detroit
 RESULTS - Washington DC Area Chapter
 RESULTS, Albuquerque
 RESULTS, Asheville
 RESULTS, Boston
 RESULTS, Central NJ Domestic Group
 Results, Columbus
 RESULTS, Los Angeles
 RESULTS, Santa Fe
 RESULTS, Seattle
 RESULTS, Silicon Valley
 RESULTS-Salina, Kansas
 RHA Howell, Inc
 Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
 Rockland Immigration Coalition
 Rocky Mountain CARE Solutions
 ROSE Community Development
 Safe Earth Alliance
 Safe Passages
 Samaritan House, Inc.
 Sar Levian Center at Johns Hopkins University
 Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
 School Sisters of Notre Dame, AM Province, JPIC
 Office
 Scott County Partnership, Inc.
 Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San
 Mateo Counties
 Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County
 Self Help Center
 Seneca 2
 Service Employee's International Union Missouri
 State Council
 Servicios de La Raza
 Shared Harvest Foodbank
 Shaw Jewish Community Center School Age Child
 Care Program
 Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
 Simpson Housing Services
 Single Stop USA
 Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific
 West Community Justice Team
 Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team
 Sisters of Mercy, Mid-Atlantic Justice Ministry
 Sisters of Mercy-Northeast Leadership Team
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery Justice and Peace
 Committee

Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation Justice Committee
 Sisters of the Most Precious Blood Leadership Team
 Social Action Linking Together (SALT)
 Social Justice Committee, Wayne Presbyterian Church
 Social Justice Ministry
 Solid Ground
 Somerville Homeless Coalition
 South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
 South King County Food Coalition
 Southern California Assoc. of Non-Profit Housing
 Southwest Key Programs
 Southwest Statistical Consulting, LLC
 Speech Therapy Fun
 St. Andrew's Senior Solutions
 St. Gabriel Peace and Justice Committee
 St. Mary's Center
 St. Mary's Social Justice Committee
 St. Matthew Justice & Human Concerns
 St. Viator Parish
 Starting Over, Inc.
 Statesville Housing Authority
 Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of NJ
 Statewide Poverty Action Network
 Stavros Center for Independent Living
 Supportive Housing Network of New York
 Survivors Inc
 T L H Consulting, Inc
 Teens, Training and Taxes
 Tennessee Education Association
 Tennessee Justice Center
 Texans Care for Children
 Texas State Teachers Association
 Texas Tenants' Union
 The Access Community Action Agency
 The Arc Minnesota
 The Arc of Greater Cleveland
 The Atlanta Community Food Bank
 The Bronx Health Link
 The Consortium
 The Food Depot
 The Illinois Federation for Community Schools
 The Kansas City Sound
 The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People
 The Policy Institute
 The Poverty Institute
 The South Carolina Education Association
 Three Square
 Tidewater Equine
 Tioga Peace and Justice
 TPS LLC
 TrainingWorks
 Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc.
 United Auto Workers (UAW) MA State CAP Council
 United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County
 United Way of Beaver County
 Universal Health Care Action Network (UHCAN) Ohio
 Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.
 URI Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America
 Utah Housing Coalition
 Utahns Against Hunger
 Vail Place
 Vaishnava Center for Enlightenment Inc.
 Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
 Vermont National Education Association
 Vices de la Frontera
 Virginia AFL-CIO
 Virginia Association of Personal Care Assistants, SEIU
 Virginia Education Association
 Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
 Virginia New Majority
 Virginia NOW
 Virginia Organizing
 Virginia Poverty Law Center
 VOCAL-NY
 Voices for Children in Nebraska
 Voices for Illinois Children
 Voices for Vermont's Children
 VSA Minnesota
 W. C. Management Non Profit Housing
 WA State National Organization for Women
 Waimanalo Health Center
 Washington Education Association
 Washington Food Coalition
 Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
 Washington State Budget & Policy Center
 Weld Food Bank
 West Central Industries, Inc.
 West Virginia Education Association
 Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc
 Westchester for Change
 Western Carolina Community Action
 Western Center on Law and Poverty
 Western Economic Development Organization
 Westside Family Healthcare
 Windemere Democrats for Obama
 Windham Regional Community Council, Inc.
 Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
 Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
 Wisconsin Education Association Council
 Wisconsin Voices
 Witnesses to Hunger
 Women Employed
 Women of Reform Judaism

Women of Vision
Women's City Club of New York
Women's Opportunity and Resource Development
Women's Voices Raised For Social Justice
World Hunger Ecumenical Arizona Task Force
(WHEAT)
World Knowledge Bank
Wow Graphics
WV Center on Budget and Policy
WV Citizen Action Group

Xaverian Brothers
YWCA Missoula
YWCA of Canton
YWCA of Greater Cincinnati
YWCA Princeton Direct Action Welfare Group
Huntington Area Food Bank
Seneca 2
West Virginia Education Association
WV Center on Budget and Policy
WV Citizen Action Group