



Michigan League FOR Human Services

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

August 2, 2012

The Honorable Hansen Clarke
1319 Longworth
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 30515

Dear Congressman Clarke,

I am writing to express my gratitude for your vote Wednesday (Aug. 1) supporting a middle-class tax bill. The bill would extend the Bush-era tax cuts on the first \$250,000 in household income but would end them above that level, which only benefit the richest 2 percent.

Unfortunately, not enough of your colleagues agreed with you. The bill that passed would extend all the Bush tax cuts, including for the richest 2 percent, and it would raise taxes on 25 million mostly middle- and lower-income working families by an average of \$1,000, by reducing refundable tax credits for earned income, child care and college tuition costs.

In Michigan, we know that the top 2 percent earn about \$611,000 on average while the rest of taxpayers earn \$55,000 on average.

We appreciate your understanding that we need to make sure all in our state have the opportunity to share in the economic recovery – not just those who are already well off.

The House-passed bill that would extend all the Bush tax cuts, including those for the richest 2 percent, would give someone who makes more than \$1 million a year an average tax break of about \$150,000 more than the Senate-passed middle-class tax cut bill. These tax cuts for the top 2 percent would add nearly \$50 billion more to the deficit than the Senate-passed bill.

I'm sure you agree that we need to make sure all in our state and in America pay their fair share. Programs that help all of your constituents, from highway planning and construction, safe drinking water, meals for homebound seniors, Head Start and school breakfast are at risk without the \$1 trillion in revenue that can be generated over the next decade by allowing the Bush-era tax cuts to sunset on incomes above \$250,000.

Thank you for making the right decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gilda Z. Jacobs".

Gilda Z. Jacobs
President & CEO
Michigan League for Human Services