



Advocates for Ohio's Future

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JOINT MEMORANDUM

To: Ohio's Congressional Delegation

From: Advocates for Ohio's Future and ## State and Local Organizations

Date: October 20, 2011

Re: Statement of Principles for Deficit Reduction

Advocates for Ohio's Future works to maintain vital public services – health, human services, and early care & education – at a level that meets people's basic needs and protects our state's most vulnerable populations.

Throughout our nation's history, the federal government has played an essential role in spurring economic growth and increasing opportunity for its people. Federal support made the railroads, interstate highways, and land grant colleges possible. The G.I. Bill opened up education and improved living standards for millions of veterans and their families. Unemployment Insurance, Social Security, and Medicare have made Americans more secure, saving us from deep poverty resulting from economic downturns, old age, or illness.

In the name of deficit reduction, some are now calling for massive cuts in funding for public health, affordable housing, and other vital domestic programs. Some would place limits on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid that would darken the future for millions. Such cuts run counter to American values of opportunity and security for all. They also ignore the lessons of history: that a strong federal role is needed for broadly shared economic progress.

We, the undersigned organizations, believe the federal government must use its resources to create the conditions for economic recovery for the benefit of all. Only by creating jobs and building economic security can we move our nation forward.

We agree that the long-term federal deficit must be addressed. We believe the nation can and should reduce the deficit over time through a responsible approach that includes fair, diverse, and stable revenues sufficient to invest in vital programs and services, as well as thoughtful reductions in expenditures that do not serve the public interest. In short, Congress should focus on the policies that will hasten the economic recovery and build a strong foundation for our

shared future. This approach will place the nation on firm fiscal footing for economic expansion that benefits everyone.

If Congress tries to reduce the deficit primarily by slashing funding and reducing the scope of critical federal programs, it will weaken us as a nation by threatening the health and development of millions of children, risking harm to seniors and people with disabilities, and reducing the incomes of many millions of families. The result will leave us more socially and economically insecure. The federal government must not stand by as family incomes erode further, as poverty and inequality rise even beyond today's unacceptably high levels. Instead, the federal government must be an engine for shared prosperity.

Together, we call upon Ohio's Congressional delegation to:

- **Protect vulnerable children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities in budget and deficit-reduction proposals** by opposing cuts to or the elimination of effective services, while supporting expansions necessary to respond to growing need.
- **Prevent damaging structural changes in essential programs that would shift costs onto vulnerable families or struggling state governments.** Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and other safety-net programs that form the bedrock of our social contract must not be disbanded.
- **Support a deficit-reduction plan that includes diverse and stable revenues drawn from equitable sources.** Imposing deep cuts in services will cost jobs, inflict additional hardship on millions of Americans, and prevent a sustainable economic recovery.

Realizing the full potential of our nation and state requires investments in the infrastructure for success: health, human services, early care & education, food and nutrition programs, job training opportunities, work supports, affordable housing, and other human needs programs, while simultaneously maintaining a robust social safety net to help those who fall on hard times.

We cannot leave so many with so little means to participate in our economy and expect the nation to be able to move forward.

Signed by:

Statewide Organizations

1. ACTION OHIO Coalition for Battered Women
2. African American Alzheimer's and Wellness Association
3. Asian Services in Action, ASIA Inc.
4. CareSource
5. Channing & Associates
6. Children's Defense Fund-Ohio (CDF-Ohio)
7. Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio (COHHIO)
8. Common Cause Ohio
9. Easter Seals of Ohio
10. National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI Ohio)

11. National Association of Social Workers—Ohio Chapter (NASW-Ohio)
12. National Youth Advocate Program
13. Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund
14. Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (O4A)
15. Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA)
16. Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA)
17. Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC)
18. Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF)
19. Ohio Campus Compact
20. Ohio Coalition of Adult Protective Services (OCAPS)
21. Ohio Citizen Advocates
22. Ohio Disability Action Coalition
23. Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association (OJFSDA)
24. Ohio Olmstead Task Force (OOTF)
25. Ohio Poverty Law Center (OPLC)
26. Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)
27. Ohio School Based Health Care Association
28. Policy Matters Ohio
29. ProgressOhio
30. Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO)
31. The Center for Community Solutions
32. The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Provider
33. Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio (UHCAN Ohio)

Local and Regional Endorsing Organizations (by city)

34. Akron: Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
35. Akron: Hillandale Farms of Ohio
36. Akron: Mature Services Inc.
37. Akron: RSVP Volunteer Program
38. Akron: Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc.
39. Ashland: Ashland County Council on Aging
40. Athens: Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)
41. Athens: Havar, Inc.
42. Berea: Berea Children's Home and Family Services - Family Life Child Care Program
43. Canal Winchester: Canal Winchester Senior Citizens, Inc.
44. Canton: Canton Calvary Mission
45. Cincinnati: CincySmiles Foundation
46. Cincinnati: Contact Center
47. Cincinnati: Creative Housing Resources Ltd
48. Cincinnati: Freestore Foodbank
49. Cincinnati: Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio LLC
50. Cincinnati: St. Joseph Orphanage
51. Cincinnati: The Partnership Center, Ltd.
52. Cincinnati: The People's Empowerment Coalition of Ohio
53. Cincinnati: SEM Food Pantry
54. Cincinnati: United Way of Greater Cincinnati
55. Clarksville: Branstrator Farm

56. Cleveland: The Arc of Greater Cleveland
57. Cleveland: AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland
58. Cleveland: Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
59. Cleveland: Cleveland Housing Network
60. Cleveland: Cleveland Tenants Organization
61. Cleveland: Golden Group
62. Cleveland: Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP)
63. Cleveland: Peace in the Hood
64. Columbus: Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging
65. Columbus: Central SDA Church
66. Columbus: Community Organizing Center
67. Columbus: Franklinton Homeowners Association
68. Columbus: Free The Planet
69. Columbus: Human Service Chamber of Franklin County
70. Columbus: Jewish Family Services
71. Columbus: LeadingAge Ohio
72. Columbus: RDP Foodservice
73. Columbus: RESULTS Chapter
74. Columbus: St. John's Episcopal Church
75. Dayton: CDCRC, Inc.
76. Dayton: The Foodbank, Inc.
77. Dayton: HomeOwnership Center of Greater Dayton
78. Dayton: St. Mary Development Corporation
79. Dayton: St. Paul United Methodist Church
80. Dayton: Wright State University Dept. of Social Work
81. Defiance: Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission
82. Delaware: Andrews House, Inc.
83. Dennison: Harcatus CAO, Inc.
84. Dennison: Word of Life Church
85. Dublin: National Eligibility Solutions LLC
86. Edgerton: Life Changing Realities Fellowship Church food pantry
87. Fairfield: Shared Harvest Foodbank
88. Findlay: Chopin Hall
89. Findlay: Hancock Hardin Wyandot Putnam Community Action Commission
90. Findlay: Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy
91. Findlay: Open Arms Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services
92. Fremont: "CORPORATE ANOINTING" Ministries
93. Galloway: PrevaHealth
94. Galloway: Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry
95. Girard: Emmanuel Community Care Center
96. Grove City: Mid-Ohio Foodbank
97. Hamilton: Holding Hands CDC
98. Hamilton: Lighthouse Food Pantry (New Wine Food Pantry)
99. Hamilton: Mercy St. Raphael
100. Hillsboro: Samaritan Outreach Services
101. Huron: Mulberry Creek HerbFarm
102. Kent: Townhall II
103. Lima: Area Agency on Aging 3, Inc.

104. Lima: West Ohio Food Bank
105. Lima: Christian Corner Community Center
106. Lisbon: Community Action Agency of Columbiana County
107. Logan: Clearing House Assistance Program
108. Logan: Southeastern Ohio Foodbank
109. Lorain: Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio
110. Marietta: Washington County Board of DD
111. Marion: Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission
112. Marion: The Salvation Army
113. Maumee: Maumee Senior Center
114. Medina: Cornerstone Wellness, Inc.
115. Medina: Feeding Medina County, Inc.
116. Medina: Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
117. Mentor: Mentor Plains United Methodist Church
118. Mentor: St. Andrew Episcopal Church
119. Morrow: Little Miami Food Service
120. New Boston: Potter's House Ministries
121. New Philadelphia: HARCATUS Tri-County Community Action Organization, Inc.
122. New Philadelphia: Personal & Family Counseling Services of Tuscarawas Valley, Inc.
123. Newark: The Salvation Army
124. Northfield: Ozaman Center
125. North Ridgeville: Pope John Paul II Ozanam Center
126. Orrville: Orrville Area United Way
127. Oxford: Oxford Talawanda Community Services
128. Parma: Parma Hunger Center
129. Piketon: Community Action Committee of Pike County
130. Pomeroy: Meigs County Council on Aging
131. Portsmouth: Community Action Organization of Scioto County, Inc.
132. Portsmouth: Mature Services
133. Portsmouth: Shawnee Mental Health Center, Inc.
134. Portsmouth: United Scioto Senior Activities, Inc.
135. Richmond Heights: World Healers, Inc.
136. Sciotoville: The Potter's House Ministries
137. Shiloh: Plymouth Shiloh Food Pantry
138. Smithville: The Village Network
139. South Lebanon: Kings LSD Area Community Services, Inc.
140. Springfield: Christ Episcopal Church
141. St. Clairsville: Community Action Commission of Belmont County
142. Steubenville: Jefferson County Community Action Council
143. Steubenville: Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.
144. Tallmadge: Shelter Care, Inc.
145. Tiffin: Christ's Church at Tiffin
146. Toledo: Family Service of Northwest Ohio
147. Toledo: Toledo Area Jobs with Justice and Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition
148. Toledo: Toledo Seagate Food Bank
149. Toledo: United Way of Greater Toledo
150. Urbana: Caring Kitchen Inc.
151. Urbana: Michael Farms, Inc.

152. Wauseon: Pennington Orchard
153. Washington Court House: Community Action Commission of Fayette County
154. Waverly: Pike County Outreach Council of Churches, Inc.
155. Winchester: Winchester Compassion Ministries
156. Wooster: St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
157. Worthington: Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio
158. Youngstown: Second Harvest Food Bank Mahoning Valley
159. Youngstown: Youngstown City Schools
160. Zanesville: Six County, Inc.