

RISE AMERICA

Raising Individuals to Stability and Empowerment

February 28, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
The Honorable Eric Cantor
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Donna Edwards
United States Congress
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Chris VanHollen
The Honorable Steny Hoyer

Dear Leaders, Representatives and Senators:

As you know, the House has passed a Continuing Resolution, H.R. 1, which the Senate will soon be considering. The CR cuts the federal discretionary programs by 21 percent, or \$100 billion from the FY11 baseline, taking expenditure levels back to FY08 levels.

We are concerned about these cuts and urge you to oppose legislation that would reduce expenditures to these levels. Our communities will have greatest difficulty absorbing cuts in the HUD, HHS, and DOL programs, including CDBG, HOME, Rental Assistance, Community Health Centers, HeadStart, Pell Grants, WIA, and Choice Neighborhoods Initiative. Some of these programs' funding will be zeroed out.

Relative to current funding levels, under the CR, **Maryland will assume a cut of \$16.8 million in the Public Housing Capital Funding, \$2.5 million cut in HOME Program, and a \$37.2 million cut in CDBG.** The federal budget cuts for CDBG alone reduce its budget by more than 50 percent over current funding, or \$2 billion. In Prince George's County alone, evictions soared in 2010 to 6,000 up from 4,000 in 2008 and 4,000 in 2009. Funding cuts will intensify challenges for these citizens and for the nonprofits whom we serve.

On behalf of the thousands of clients, towns and citizens whom we serve, we urge you to consider the effects that these significant cuts in funding will have on the sustainability of our communities in short-term and long-term. We urge you to pass legislation that will uphold current programs during our current challenging economic climate and empower personal independence and economic growth.

Sincerely,

RISE, America!
Mission of Love Charities, Inc.
Volunteers of America Chesapeake
Human Services Coalition
Coalition of Central Prince George's County Community Organizations

Kairos Development Corporation
Progressive Cheverly
New Revival Center of Renewal
Mission of Love Outreach Ministries

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