

National Association of Social Workers
Office of the Executive Director

Elizabeth J. Clark, PhD, ACSW, MPH
Executive Director

October 17, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), I urge both Republicans and Democrats to support the American Jobs Act. Founded in 1955, (NASW) is the largest association of professional social workers in the world with nearly 145,000 members. We work to promote the profession of social work and social justice. NASW has tirelessly fought for policies that build a universal system of support and provide an adequate safety net for those in need. The American Jobs Act would expand employment opportunities for individuals, families and communities that have been impacted by the recession.

Recent reports say that job creation has slowed for the past couple of months. There are 14 million American unemployed. The Nation's unemployment rate is more than 9 percent, with unemployment among African-Americans at a disturbing rate of 16.7 percent, 11.3 percent among Hispanic Americans and 12.4 percent for women who head families.

By modernizing our infrastructure, alleviating teacher layoffs and extending unemployment insurance for out-of-work Americans, the American Jobs Act would be a strong first step in restoring American prosperity and rebuilding the American dream. In addition, the American Jobs Act would increase the pace of job creation and induce opportunities for the long-term unemployed to reenter the labor market while providing incentives for businesses to hire.

The essence of the American Jobs Act is to restore American prosperity and rebuild the American dream in a balanced and fair way. NASW looks forward to working with you as Congress seeks reasonable solutions to those difficult problems that require meaningful intervention for the socially and economically disadvantaged.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth J. Clark, PhD, ACSW, MPH
Executive Director

cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives