

## STATE LEGISLATOR LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

We, the undersigned, state legislators representing constituents from every region of the nation, strongly support the immediate passage of the federal American Jobs Act – a common-sense package of proposals that recognize the crisis of job losses in the states while adopting effective job-creation solutions that many of our states are already advancing.

In order to create and save jobs, we also urge that the following critical issues be addressed in any final federal jobs legislation:

- Relief to state budgets that will create jobs. States cannot afford more job-killing cuts. To avoid another recession, provisions in the American Jobs Act that allow for the hiring and retraining of teachers, police officers, and firefighters must be included in final legislation to counteract the continuing jobs crisis in the states. Over 600,000 state and local public-sector jobs have been lost since the beginning of the recession, losses that economists agree have been one of the main drags on our national economic recovery.
- Inclusion of job-creating revenue generating measures that ask all to pay their fair share. After seeing firsthand the job losses that budget cuts at the state level have caused, we also strongly support measures in President Obama's plan that ensure the wealthy contribute their fair share to address federal deficit reduction in order to avoid further job-killing cuts at the federal level. At a time of historic income inequality, declining median wages, and increasing poverty, asking those who have benefitted the most to share in the sacrifice that so many working families have already made is the only fair and equitable solution to our nation's long-term deficit issues.
- Adoption of innovative state policies to save and grow jobs. The American Jobs Act incorporates some innovative state policies intended to protect workers, including the prevention of employer discrimination against the unemployed and allowing workers to keep their jobs while collecting partial unemployment benefits through worksharing. Even in the toxic environment of anti-worker attacks that marred many state legislative sessions this year, these two common-sense measures have gained bipartisan support in many states, and should be supported in Congress as well.
- Cost shift to states in Medicaid. We are concerned about the proposed

cost shift to states included in the deficit reduction proposals – specifically the adjustments to Medicaid, which would reduce federal matching dollars to states and threaten to harm the health security of families when they need it most. Creating the conditions necessary to create jobs and rebuild prosperity, while making sure any additional burdens do not fall on those who have already sacrificed so much and who can least afford them, is the single most important thing Washington can do in order to address both the jobs crisis as well as state and federal budget deficits.

State economies are in desperate need of positive action from Washington, D.C. on jobs. The economic effects of not passing the American Jobs Act would be devastating -- both at kitchen tables and in statehouses around the nation. We urgently support the immediate passage of the American Jobs Act.