

Vote Yes on H.R. 1/S.1 because it makes good economic sense for the children and families in our state. Oppose harmful amendments that may jeopardize the bill!

- Investments for children are a significant part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009.
- Over the last eight years, we have seen millions more children fall below the poverty line, go without health insurance, and go to bed hungry.
- Voting in support of H.R. 1/S. 1 is not only the right thing to do; it is one of the smartest investments we can make for our state's future.
- According to Moodys.com, for every dollar spent there is a return to the economy of \$1.64 as a result of extending unemployment benefits; \$1.84 for increasing food stamps; \$1.59 for investing in infrastructure, and \$1.36 for providing aid to state and local governments.
- Over the past 10 years, states have made significant gains in assisting working families to obtain health care, child care and other services. However, the demand for such services is high and growing rapidly with the worsening economic situation. This bill invests in a variety of programs that will alleviate some of the economic strain currently felt by children and their families.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment bill will help children and families hurt by the economic crisis keep their health insurance coverage.

- As the economy becomes more volatile in our state, more families risk losing their health care coverage. H.R.1/S.1 provides financial security to families in the form of health insurance.
 - The bill provides enhanced, but *temporary*, federal Medicaid matching funds for our state coffers to help maintain our existing caseloads so no child or family is at risk for losing their medical coverage and more vulnerable families have access to affordable health care.
 - Additional dollars received from the federal government for Medicaid will free state dollars for investments in other services that support working families. State by state breakdown can be found here - <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09sfp.pdf>.
 - The bill provides temporary assistance for those families in our state who have involuntarily lost their jobs and want to maintain the health care coverage offered under their employer. (COBRA)
 - The bill provides a 65% subsidy for COBRA continuation for up to 12 months.
 - The bill creates a temporary state option that will allow our state to extend Medicaid benefits to individuals who have lost their jobs and are not-eligible to continue to extend their coverage under COBRA.

The economic recovery bill will provide tax relief for vulnerable, working families.

- Making the Child Tax Credit accessible to more families will increase tax benefits to working families with children, including many whose earnings have fallen sharply due to the recession. Reducing the earnings needed to claim the credit could benefit 13.3 million more children than under the current earnings threshold.
- The recession could push 3 million children into poverty and increase the number of children already living in deep poverty. Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit could slow these trends because it directs tax benefits to families struggling to meet basic economic needs.
- Public colleges and universities typically raise tuition and cut financial aid in times of recession, making financing college educations difficult. Offering a \$2,500 education credit increases access to higher education to 4 million lower-income students. This access is particularly critical for students of color who often face additional educational challenges.

The economic recovery bill invests in our nation's future.

- Investments provided to Head Start will allow an additional 110,000 children to participate in this successful early education program. Along with advancing children's educational and social development, Head Start provides a long-term economic benefit for states with nearly a \$9 return on investment for every \$1 invested.
- Investments provided for K-12 public education services will allow us to build a 21st Century education system. The \$41 billion investment will allow states to improve their schools' infrastructures, strengthen early identification and specialized educational services for children with learning disabilities and improve educational access for children living in high-poverty school districts.
- Investments will allow an additional 300,000 children access to child care services. Child care benefits working families by helping to maintain employment.

The economic recovery bill will offer temporary assistance for our nation's most vulnerable families.

- The current economic downturn has resulted in a surge in the number of first-time applications for short-term cash assistance and job training for families—most often due to job loss. Adding additional funds to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Contingency Fund will provide states experiencing these increases with the resources to make assistance available to all who need it.
- Boosting food assistance through the food stamp (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance) program will ensure adequate nutrition is available for all children so they prosper and thrive in ways that are critical to their healthy development.
- Increasing unemployment insurance benefits and modernizing the program will provide immediate assistance to families experiencing job losses so more part-time and lower-wage workers will be able to receive benefits.

As Congress debates job creation policies, it is important to remember the economic recovery should be designed in a way that works for everyone based on strengthening the economy from the bottom up so that all families benefit.