



March 4, 2010

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Alexander
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles W. Boustany Jr.
1117 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anh "Joseph" Cao
2113 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
506 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1806

The Honorable John Fleming
1023 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charlie Melancon
404 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise
429 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Louisiana Senators and Members of Congress:

The Louisiana Budget Project urgently requests your support for an extension of the TANF Emergency Fund. Sen. John Kerry has introduced an amendment to the jobs bill currently being considered by the Senate that would extend the Emergency Fund for another year and provide \$2.5 billion in 2011.

This is money urgently needed by Louisiana.

Louisiana could use the TANF Emergency Fund to meet the rising demand for services, including to cover the costs of rising caseloads, to help families stave off crises, to provide subsidized employment, and to help address basic needs provided through nonprofit organizations.

Cutting these TANF programs would not only harm our citizens, however, it would harm the economy. Mark Zandi of Moody'sEconomy.com recently told the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, "[States] will be under intense pressure to cut jobs and programs and to raise taxes and fees. . . . For state and local governments to turn into a weight on growth will be a meaningful impediment to the broader recovery's prospects."

This is certainly true in Louisiana. Governor Jindal's Executive Budget for FY11 proposes spending \$5 billion less than in FY10, including a decline of \$4 billion in federal funds and \$1 billion in state funds, and eliminating 2,976 state civil service positions, with most of the cuts coming from the Department of Health and Hospitals. To help cover the shortfall in revenues from both state and federal sources, Louisiana has already received a small TANF Emergency Fund grant and reportedly has applied for a much larger grant.

Mailing:

P.O. Box 66558
Baton Rouge, LA 70896

Physical:

8281 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Phone: 225-929-5266

Fax: 225-925-2711



www.labudget.org

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Please support passage of the jobs bill with Senator Kerry's amendment that will provide Louisiana with much needed TANF Emergency Fund relief.

Thank you!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Ashworth", written over a horizontal line.

Edward Ashworth
Director
Louisiana Budget Project