

December 17, 2008

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Our children are the nation's most precious resource, and yet, they are the silent victims of the economic downturn and foreclosure crisis. We ask you to include \$72 million in emergency funding for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program in the economic stimulus package in order to support the most vulnerable victims of these dual crises.

School districts across the country are facing unprecedented increases in the numbers of homeless students entering their classrooms. Research shows that these students are less likely to perform at grade level in math and reading, are more likely to repeat a grade, and are less likely to graduate from high school. Federal support is necessary to ensure that these homeless students have the ability to stay in their schools, even if they are forced from their homes, through transportation and other support services.

An estimated 2 million children will be directly impacted by the foreclosure crisis. This estimate is conservative because it does not include children in families who rent their homes, and it is these children who are often the most likely to find themselves without stable housing. The \$72 million emergency appropriation would serve 483,221 homeless children and youth, roughly one-fourth of the children facing foreclosure nationwide.

Our country is facing turbulent times, and our children are feeling the impact. The educational stability provided by these resources will help homeless children cope with the crisis at hand, continue with their education, and achieve their full potential.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Excellent Education  
American Counseling Association  
American Humane Association  
AMS Educational Consultation Svs, LLC.  
Break the Cycle  
Camp Fire USA  
Communities In Schools  
Education Law Center  
EPIC-Every Person Influences Children  
Family Connection of Easton, PA  
Family Promise  
First Focus  
GLSEN - the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network  
Knowledge Alliance  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Secondary School Principals

National Center for Housing and Child Welfare  
National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education  
National Collaboration for Youth  
National Community Education Association  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Education Association  
National Network for Youth  
National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness  
National PTA  
National School Boards Association  
Pacific Islands Center for Educational Development  
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children  
Perspectives, Inc  
Public Education Network  
Rebecca Project for Human Rights  
Rimrock Foundation  
School Social Work Association of America  
The Making An Educational Difference Foundation, Inc.  
United Way of America  
Voices for America's Children  
YMCA of the USA  
Youthbuild USA