



**STATEMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN GWEN MOORE**  
**COMMITTEE ON RULES HEARING ON THE**  
**AMENDMENT (IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE) TO H.CON.RES. 112**  
**OFFERED BY MR. CLEAVER OF MISSOURI, MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA, MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN, AND MS.**  
**BASS OF CALIFORNIA**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012**

- Mr. Chairman, I join my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus in discussing our FY13 Budget Priorities; I am here to focus on what this budget alternative does to defend the social safety net that has helped to protect millions of families from experiencing deep poverty and hunger during the Great Recession.

**CBC Budget Highlight: Protects the Social Safety Net**

- At least 62 percent of the Republican Budget's \$5.3 trillion in nondefense budget cuts over 10 years come from programs that serve low-income people. These cuts violate basic principles of fairness and decency.
- The CBC Budget rejects the harmful cuts contained within Chairman Ryan's budget. The CBC Budget also does not contain changes to the structure of programs like Medicaid and SNAP, converting them into block grants—changes which translate to deep cuts.
  - The Republican Budget block grants SNAP, and cuts more than 17 percent (\$134 billion cut over ten years) which would undoubtedly lead to an increase in hunger and poverty.
  - SNAP benefits play a crucial role in boosting families' monthly income. Census data show that SNAP helped more than 5 million Americans rise above the poverty line in 2010, including 2.2 million children and 350,000 seniors.
  - Currently, there are 46.5 million people participating in the SNAP program. This is an unprecedented number, reflecting the great need in this country, among people from all walks of life.

- A majority of SNAP recipients support vulnerable family members. Three-quarters are in families with children, and one-third live with senior citizens or individuals with disabilities.
- As a representative from the great state of Wisconsin, I can tell you that I have been deeply concerned about funding cuts to the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The CBC Budget restores funding to this program, which provides much-needed heating assistance for low-income families.
- The CBC Budget also fully restores funding for the TANF Emergency Fund , which states have successfully used to provide subsidized jobs for nearly 250,000 otherwise-unemployed parents and youth during a time of high unemployment.
  - The TANF Emergency Fund supported local economies by putting money into the hands of individuals most likely to spend it and provided direct support to help businesses, non-profits, and local governments weather the recession.
- Our budget alternative also provides \$16 billion to fund H.R. 589, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Expansion Act, which extends emergency unemployment benefits for all Americans by adding 14 weeks to Tier I.
  - Millions of Americans have exhausted their unemployment benefits. This modest expansion will provide these families with a vital lifeline while job growth continues to pick up steam.
  - Helping unemployed Americans helps spur economic growth as well. Families who receive financial assistance benefit the marketplace and local businesses when they buy basic necessities.
- The CBC Budget invests additional funding for critical programs such as Child Support Enforcement; Public Housing; HOPE VI; Homeless Assistance; Supportive Housing programs for the Disabled and Elderly; the Child Care and Development Block Grant; the Social Services Block Grant; Child Welfare Services; Adoption Opportunities; Independent Living and Training Vouchers; WIC; Section 8; Rural Housing Programs; and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.

### **Key CBC Budget Highlight: Justice Funding**

- The CBC budget ensures that the Department of Justice has the resources it needs to

enforce anti-discriminatory and equal protection statutes of federal law.

- In the past year, we have seen an explosion of states that have passed election laws that disproportionately disenfranchise minority, low-income individuals, students, and elderly voters.
  - In order to ensure that we retain the basic democratic right to vote for the some 5 million voters estimated to be affected by these laws, it is important that we have a fully functioning Department of Justice that is capable of enforcing the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and provisions in the Constitution.
  - The Department is also instrumental in ensuring that hate crime statutes are effectively carried out and local police departments receive the investigative assistance they need to ensure federal protections are properly enforced.
- We make all of these essential investments I've outlined above—and more—while setting aside \$3.4 trillion for deficit reduction over a ten year period.
  - Controlling the debt and deficit must be a top priority, but it is downright immoral to do it on the backs of the most vulnerable families who struggle to make ends meet every day.
  - The CBC is committed to ensuring that all can share in our recovery, and while we have been encouraged by the improvements thus far in our economy and job market, many of the most vulnerable populations throughout the country have yet to feel the benefits of our recovery.
  - With additional investments in areas like transportation, education and job training, the CBC continues its commitment towards ensuring that states have the resources they need to put Americans back to work and help spur the economic recovery of our country.