



Advocates for Ohio's Future

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2011

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300 GROUPS URGE PORTMAN, CONGRESS TO PROTECT VULNERABLE OHIOANS

COLUMBUS - Diverse groups representing health and human service organizations, managed care, nursing home lobbyists, and family farms joined together to call on U.S. Senator Rob Portman and the rest of Ohio's Congressional delegation to provide more support for people who are struggling.

More than 300 organizations signed on to three overarching principles for the deficit-reduction "Super Committee" on which Portman serves. "It is possible to make progress on deficit reduction without further harming our poorest Ohioans and without pushing our families and seniors into further economic distress," said Mark Davis, co-chair of Advocates for Ohio's Future, which coordinated the sign-on letter.

Those principles, delivered today to Portman's offices in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo by advocates and consumers of federal safety-net services, are:

- Protect vulnerable children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities in budget and deficit-reduction proposals by opposing cuts to or the elimination of effective services, while supporting expansions necessary to respond to growing need.
- Prevent damaging structural changes in essential programs that would shift costs onto vulnerable families or struggling state governments. Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and other safety-net programs that form the bedrock of our social contract must not be disbanded.
- Support a deficit-reduction plan that includes diverse and stable revenues drawn from equitable sources. Imposing deep cuts in services will cost jobs, inflict additional hardship on millions of Americans, and prevent a sustainable economic recovery.

The message appealed to such a broad constituency, because it reflects the values of people from all walks of life and income levels, AOF Co-Chair Gayle Channing Tenenbaum said. "Recovery is possible if our policies strengthen hard-working families rather than push more of them into poverty. Too many people are finding themselves one paycheck or mortgage payment away from needing food stamps, Medicaid, or other vital safety-net services," she said.

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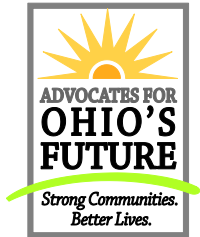
Channing Tenenbaum and Davis pointed to startling statistics in the use of federally funded services since the start of the Great Recession:

- The number of Food Stamp recipients in Ohio has skyrocketed 58% since 2007;
- Over 2 million Ohioans now depend on Medicaid;
- Over 200,000 Franklin County residents receive Food Stamps;
- The number of Food Stamp recipients in Delaware County has shot up 78% since 2007;
- Fairfield County saw a 33% increase in Medicaid recipients since 2007.

Channing Tenenbaum added that a meeting with Portman's staff this month offered encouragement that the Super Committee's work will not end in stalemate, resulting in automatic and disastrous cuts to all safety-net programs except for Medicaid. "Health and human service advocates understand the necessity for deficit reduction, and we do not want this effort to fail," she said. "At the same time, the worst possible outcome would be a deficit reduction proposal that pushes more people into poverty."

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Advocates for Ohio's Future works to maintain vital public services - health, human services, and early care & education - at a level that meets people's basic needs and protects our state's most vulnerable populations.



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JOINT MEMORANDUM

To: Ohio's Congressional Delegation

From: Advocates for Ohio's Future and 314 State and Local Organizations

Date: October 21, 2011

Re: Statement of Principles for Deficit Reduction

Advocates for Ohio's Future works to maintain vital public services – health, human services, and early care & education – at a level that meets people's basic needs and protects our state's most vulnerable populations.

Throughout our nation's history, the federal government has played an essential role in spurring economic growth and increasing opportunity for its people. Federal support made the railroads, interstate highways, and land grant colleges possible. The G.I. Bill opened up education and improved living standards for millions of veterans and their families. Unemployment Insurance, Social Security, and Medicare have made Americans more secure, saving us from deep poverty resulting from economic downturns, old age, or illness.

In the name of deficit reduction, some are now calling for massive cuts in funding for public health, affordable housing, and other vital domestic programs. Some would place limits on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid that would darken the future for millions. Such cuts run counter to American values of opportunity and security for all. They also ignore the lessons of history: that a strong federal role is needed for broadly shared economic progress.

We, the undersigned organizations, believe the federal government must use its resources to create the conditions for economic recovery for the benefit of all. Only by creating jobs and building economic security can we move our nation forward.

We agree that the long-term federal deficit must be addressed. We believe the nation can and should reduce the deficit over time through a responsible approach that includes fair, diverse, and stable revenues sufficient to invest in vital programs and services, as well as thoughtful reductions in expenditures that do not serve the public interest. In short, Congress should focus on the policies that will hasten the economic recovery and build a strong foundation for our

shared future. This approach will place the nation on firm fiscal footing for economic expansion that benefits everyone.

If Congress tries to reduce the deficit primarily by slashing funding and reducing the scope of critical federal programs, it will weaken us as a nation by threatening the health and development of millions of children, risking harm to seniors and people with disabilities, and reducing the incomes of many millions of families. The result will leave us more socially and economically insecure. The federal government must not stand by as family incomes erode further, as poverty and inequality rise even beyond today's unacceptably high levels. Instead, the federal government must be an engine for shared prosperity.

Together, we call upon Ohio's Congressional delegation to:

- **Protect vulnerable children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities in budget and deficit-reduction proposals** by opposing cuts to or the elimination of effective services, while supporting expansions necessary to respond to growing need.
- **Prevent damaging structural changes in essential programs that would shift costs onto vulnerable families or struggling state governments.** Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and other safety-net programs that form the bedrock of our social contract must not be disbanded.
- **Support a deficit-reduction plan that includes diverse and stable revenues drawn from equitable sources.** Imposing deep cuts in services will cost jobs, inflict additional hardship on millions of Americans, and prevent a sustainable economic recovery.

Realizing the full potential of our nation and state requires investments in the infrastructure for success: health, human services, early care & education, food and nutrition programs, job training opportunities, work supports, affordable housing, and other human needs programs, while simultaneously maintaining a robust social safety net to help those who fall on hard times.

We cannot leave so many with so little means to participate in our economy and expect the nation to be able to move forward.

Signed by:

Statewide Organizations

1. AARP Ohio
2. ACTION OHIO Coalition for Battered Women
3. African American Alzheimer's and Wellness Association
4. Asian Services in Action, ASIA Inc.
5. CareSource
6. Channing & Associates
7. Children's Defense Fund-Ohio (CDF-Ohio)
8. Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio (COHHIO)
9. Common Cause Ohio
10. Easter Seals of Ohio

11. LeadingAge Ohio
12. League of Women Voters of Ohio
13. National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI Ohio)
14. National Association of Social Workers—Ohio Chapter (NASW-Ohio)
15. National Youth Advocate Program
16. Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational Fund
17. Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (O4A)
18. Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA)
19. Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA)
20. Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC)
21. Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF)
22. Ohio Campus Compact
23. Ohio CDC Association
24. Ohio Coalition of Adult Protective Services (OCAPS)
25. Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage (OCHC)
26. Ohio Citizen Advocates
27. Ohio Disability Action Coalition
28. Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association (OJFSDA)
29. Ohio Olmstead Task Force (OOTF)
30. Ohio Poverty Law Center (OPLC)
31. Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA)
32. Ohio School Based Health Care Association
33. Ohio TRiO
34. Policy Matters Ohio
35. ProgressOhio
36. Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO)
37. The Center for Community Solutions
38. The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Provider
39. Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio (UHCAN Ohio)
40. Voices for Ohio's Children (VFC-Ohio)
41. The Visiting Nurse Association of Ohio
42. WeBelieve Ohio

Local and Regional Endorsing Organizations (by city)

43. Akron: Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
44. Akron: Hillandale Farms of Ohio
45. Akron: Mature Services Inc.
46. Akron: REM Ohio, Inc.
47. Akron: RSVP Volunteer Program
48. Akron: Simply EZ Home Delivered Meals of NE Ohio, LLC
49. Akron: Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc.
50. Ashland: Ashland County Council on Aging
51. Athens: Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)
52. Athens: Havar, Inc.
53. Bellevue: Bellevue Fish & Loaves
54. Berea: Berea Children's Home and Family Services - Family Life Child Care Program
55. Bedford Heights: City of Bedford Heights

56. Bowling Green: Children's Resource Center
57. Brecksville: Care on the Square
58. Caldwell: Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio
59. Cambridge: Guernsey County Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
60. Canal Winchester: Canal Winchester Senior Citizens, Inc.
61. Canton: Canton Calvary Mission
62. Canton: Jones Rehab, Inc.
63. Celina: Mercer United Methodist Church
64. Celina: Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
65. Centerville: ResCare
66. Cincinnati: Anderson Ferry Food Pantry
67. Cincinnati: The Arc of Southwest Ohio
68. Cincinnati: Center for Independent Living Options
69. Cincinnati: Christ Community on College Hill
70. Cincinnati: CincySmiles Foundation
71. Cincinnati: Communities United for Action
72. Cincinnati: Contact Center
73. Cincinnati: Creative Housing Resources Ltd
74. Cincinnati: Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio
75. Cincinnati: Family Services of Middletown
76. Cincinnati: Freestore Foodbank
77. Cincinnati: Halom House, Inc.
78. Cincinnati: Jewish Family Service of the Cincinnati Area
79. Cincinnati: League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area
80. Cincinnati: Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio LLC
81. Cincinnati: Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled
82. Cincinnati: Madisonville Education and Assistance Center
83. Cincinnati: Madisonville Mission Ministries
84. Cincinnati: Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati
85. Cincinnati: Over-the-Rhine Community Housing
86. Cincinnati: Parkside Outreach
87. Cincinnati: Saint Joseph Home of Cincinnati
88. Cincinnati: St. Joseph Orphanage
89. Cincinnati: The Partnership Center, Ltd.
90. Cincinnati: The People's Empowerment Coalition of Ohio
91. Cincinnati: SEM Food Pantry
92. Cincinnati: United Way of Greater Cincinnati
93. Circleville: Pickaway County Community Action Organization, Inc.
94. Clarksville: Branstrator Farm
95. Cleveland: The Arc of Greater Cleveland
96. Cleveland: AIDS Taskforce of Greater Cleveland
97. Cleveland: Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
98. Cleveland: Catholic Community Connection
99. Cleveland: Cleveland Housing Network
100. Cleveland: Cleveland Tenants Organization
101. Cleveland: Cogswell Hall, Inc.
102. Cleveland: The Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland
103. Cleveland: God's House of Prayer Food Pantry

104. Cleveland: Golden Group
105. Cleveland: Housing Research & Advocacy Center
106. Cleveland: Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland
107. Cleveland: L'Arche Cleveland
108. Cleveland: Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP)
109. Cleveland: Long Term Care Ombudsman
110. Cleveland: Moms First
111. Cleveland: New Directions
112. Cleveland: North Coast Community Homes
113. Cleveland: Peace in the Hood
114. Cleveland: Pope John Paul Ozanam Center
115. Cleveland: St. Augustine Health Ministries
116. Cleveland: United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland
117. Cleveland: United Labor Agency
118. Cloverdale: Circle of Friends
119. College Corner: Preble County Family & Children First Council
120. Columbus: AXIS Center for Public Awareness
121. Columbus: Church for All People
122. Columbus: Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging
123. Columbus: Central SDA Church
124. Columbus: Communication Workers of America Local 4502 (CWA 4502)
125. Columbus: Community Development for All People
126. Columbus: Community Organizing Center
127. Columbus: Dungarvin Ohio LLC
128. Columbus: Franklinton Homeowners Association
129. Columbus: Free The Planet
130. Columbus: Goodwill Columbus
131. Columbus: Heinzerling Foundation
132. Columbus: Human Service Chamber of Franklin County
133. Columbus: Hunger Network in Ohio
134. Columbus: IMPACT Community Action
135. Columbus: Jewish Family Services
136. Columbus: Masjid As-Salaamah Inc.
137. Columbus: National Council of Jewish Women, Columbus
138. Columbus: Progressive Peace Coalition
139. Columbus: RDP Foodservice
140. Columbus: RESULTS Chapter
141. Columbus: Simply EZ Home Delivered Meals
142. Columbus: St. John's Episcopal Church
143. Columbus: Women in Black
144. Columbus: Young Adult Community Development, Inc.
145. Conneaut: Ashtabula County Residential Services Corporation
146. Corning: Corning Food Pantry
147. Coshocton: RHDD
148. Covington: Helping Hands Food Pantry
149. Crestline: Crestline Assistance and Ministries Program
150. Cuyahoga Falls: Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee
151. Dayton: AIDS Resource Center Ohio

152. Dayton: Catholic Social Services
153. Dayton: CDCRC, Inc.
154. Dayton: Cross Creek Community Church
155. Dayton: Dayton Circles Initiative
156. Dayton: FAITH Ministry
157. Dayton: The Foodbank, Inc.
158. Dayton: HomeOwnership Center of Greater Dayton
159. Dayton: Northeast Churches Emergency Center Food Pantry
160. Dayton: NTegrityGroup, LLC
161. Dayton: Resident Home of Greater Dayton
162. Dayton: St. Mary Development Corporation
163. Dayton: St. Paul United Methodist Church
164. Dayton: Society of St. Vincent de Paul
165. Dayton: Think Tank, Inc.
166. Dayton: United Rehabilitation Services
167. Dayton: Wright State University Dept. of Social Work
168. Defiance: Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission
169. Delaware: Andrews House, Inc.
170. Dennison: Harcatus CAO, Inc.
171. Dennison: Word of Life Church
172. Dublin: National Eligibility Solutions LLC
173. Dublin: ViaQuest
174. East Cleveland: B.R.I.D.G.E. The Gap Education and Community Foundation
175. Edgerton: Life Changing Realities Fellowship Church food pantry
176. Elyria: YWCA
177. Fairfield: Shared Harvest Foodbank
178. Fairport Harbor: Consortium Against Adult Abuse
179. Findlay: Chopin Hall
180. Findlay: Hancock Hardin Wyandot Putnam Community Action Commission
181. Findlay: Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy
182. Findlay: Open Arms Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services
183. Franklin: VRI
184. Fremont: "CORPORATE ANOINTING" Ministries
185. Fremont: Liberty Center of Sandusky County
186. Fremont: WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc.
187. Galloway: Columbia Heights United Methodist Church
188. Galloway: PrevaHealth
189. Galloway: Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry
190. Georgetown: Brown County Senior Citizens Council
191. Girard: Emmanuel Community Care Center
192. Grove City: Grove City Food Pantry and Emergency Services, Inc.
193. Grove City: Mid-Ohio Foodbank
194. Hamilton: Holding Hands CDC
195. Hamilton: Lighthouse Food Pantry (New Wine Food Pantry)
196. Hamilton: Mercy St. Raphael
197. Hamilton: Open Door Pantry
198. Hillsboro: Samaritan Outreach Services
199. Huron: Mulberry Creek HerbFarm

200. Independence: Christ Presbyterian Church
201. Independence: Koinonia
202. Kent: Townhall II
203. Lebanon: Open Options, Inc.
204. Lima: Area Agency on Aging 3, Inc.
205. Lima: Churches United Pantry
206. Lima: West Ohio Food Bank
207. Lima: Christian Corner Community Center
208. Lima: Faith Harvest Food Pantry
209. Lisbon: Community Action Agency of Columbiana County
210. Logan: Clearing House Assistance Program
211. Logan: Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action
212. Logan: Southeastern Ohio Foodbank
213. Logan: United Way of Hocking County
214. Lorain: Goodwill Industries of Lorain County, Inc.
215. Lorain: Lorain Cooperative Ministry
216. Lorain: Lorain County AIDS Task Force
217. Lorain: Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio
218. Lorain: We Care We Share Ministries
219. Lucasville: Friends of Good Shepherd Manor, Inc.
220. Madison: Grand Manner, Inc.
221. Madison: Living Opportunities
222. Madison: Stewart Lodge & Manor Home
223. Mansfield: Harmony House Homeless Services
224. Maple Heights: Helping All Students to Independence
225. Marietta: Washington County Board of DD
226. Marion: Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission
227. Marion: The Salvation Army
228. Maumee: Maumee Senior Center
229. Maumee: Sunshine
230. Medina: Cornerstone Wellness, Inc.
231. Medina: Feeding Medina County, Inc.
232. Medina: OgdenPost Consulting Group
233. Medina: Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
234. Mentor: Crossroads
235. Mentor: Mentor Plains United Methodist Church
236. Mentor: St. Andrew Episcopal Church
237. Milford: Literacy Council of Clermont and Brown Counties
238. Montpelier: Potter's Hands Restoration
239. Morrow: Little Miami Food Service
240. Mount Orab: Adams Brown Counties Economic Opportunities, Inc.
241. Mount Vernon: Ohio Adventist Charities
242. Nelsonville: Nelsonville Food Cupboard
243. New Boston: Potter's House Ministries
244. New Lebanon: New Lebanon Christian Daycare Center
245. New Philadelphia: HARCATUS Tri-County Community Action Organization, Inc.
246. New Philadelphia: Jennifer Kneuss Consulting
247. New Philadelphia: Personal & Family Counseling Services of Tuscarawas Valley, Inc.

248. New Vienna: Living Waters Worship Center
249. Newark: The Salvation Army
250. Northfield: Ozanam Center
251. North Ridgeville: Pope John Paul II Ozanam Center
252. North Royalton: NCC Solutions
253. Northwood: Simply EZ Home Delivered Meals of NW Ohio, LLC
254. Norwood: Zion UCC Food Pantry
255. Oberlin: Community Peace Builders
256. Orrville: Orrville Area United Way
257. Oxford: Oxford Senior Citizens Board
258. Oxford: Oxford Talawanda Community Services
259. Oxford: PUSH-People United for Self
260. Parma: Parma Hunger Center
261. Piketon: Community Action Committee of Pike County
262. Plymouth: John F. Stambaugh & Co., Inc.
263. Pomeroy: Meigs County Council on Aging
264. Portsmouth: Community Action Organization of Scioto County, Inc.
265. Portsmouth: Mature Services
266. Portsmouth: Shawnee Mental Health Center, Inc.
267. Portsmouth: United Scioto Senior Activities, Inc.
268. Richmond Heights: World Healers, Inc.
269. Rio Grande: Area Agency on Aging District 7
270. Sciotoville: The Potter's House Ministries
271. Shiloh: Plymouth Shiloh Food Pantry
272. Seven Hills: St. Vincent DePaul Society
273. Smithville: The Village Network
274. South Lebanon: Kings LSD Area Community Services, Inc.
275. Springfield: Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio
276. Springfield: Christ Episcopal Church
277. St. Clairsville: Community Action Commission of Belmont County
278. Steubenville: Jefferson County Community Action Council
279. Steubenville: Urban Mission Ministries, Inc.
280. Tallmadge: Shelter Care, Inc.
281. Tiffin: Christ's Church at Tiffin
282. Tiffin: Renaissance House, Inc.
283. Tipp City: Needy Basket of Southern Miami County
284. Toledo: Family Service of Northwest Ohio
285. Toledo: Josina Lott Residential & Community Services
286. Toledo: Toledo Area Jobs with Justice and Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition
287. Toledo: Toledo Fair Housing Center
288. Toledo: Toledo NW Ohio Food Bank
289. Toledo: Toledo Seagate Food Bank
290. Toledo: United Way of Greater Toledo
291. Upper Sandusky: Liberty Freedom Center
292. Urbana: Caring Kitchen Inc.
293. Urbana: Champaign Residential Services, Inc.
294. Urbana: Michael Farms, Inc.
295. Van Wert: Cooper Farms Cooked Meats

296. Waynesburg: The Helping Hands Network
297. Wauseon: Pennington Farm Orchard
298. Washington Court House: Community Action Commission of Fayette County
299. Waverly: Pike County Outreach Council of Churches, Inc.
300. Westlake: Blossom Hill, Inc.
301. Winchester: Winchester Compassion Ministries
302. Windham: Renaissance Family Center
303. Wooster: St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
304. Worthington: RMS of Ohio, Inc.
305. Xenia: Liberty Worship Center Food Pantry
306. Xenia: Lutheran Church
307. Xenia: Toward Independence, Inc.
308. Youngstown: Northeast Ohio Legal Services
309. Youngstown: Ohio Organizing Collaborative's Retirement Security Campaign
310. Youngstown: Second Harvest Food Bank Mahoning Valley
311. Youngstown: Youngstown City Schools
312. Zanesville: Six County, Inc.
313. Zanesville: Muskingum Behavioral Health
314. Zanesville: Muskingum Residentials, Inc.