



**City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council**

February 25, 2011

The Honorable Richard Lugar
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the City Council of Bloomington, Indiana, I urge you to reject the budget cuts to social services programming proposed in H.R.1, the 2011 Continuing Resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. These cuts will devastate our community's most vulnerable and harm the collective well-being of our community.

As stewards of public money, we take seriously the duty to live within our means. However, this starts with making responsible cuts, not by threatening social services agencies that empower people and serve as engines of economic development. Indeed, compromising social services programming is not just bad government, it is bad business. For every dollar spent on social services, the community gets many more back through reduced crime, a lower drop-out rate, higher productivity, a more skilled workforce, higher family incomes, and reduced health care and social services costs. For every dollar cut, the collateral damage is exponential.

We've reviewed H.R. 1's proposal. However, in the absence of a Congressional assessment of the measure's impact on our community, the Bloomington City Council held a "Listening Session" on February 23, 2011 to hear from residents about what the proposed cuts mean for them. Below is a sample of what we heard.

- The cuts will burden local government. Agencies and individuals will look to local government for help as agencies lose federal funding and cut staff and programming. In these lean economic times, and in light of the State of Indiana's cap on property taxes, local budgets are already strapped.
- Cuts to Head Start and childcare programs mean that many residents will not be able to afford to work. When quality, affordable childcare is compromised, parents are often forced to quit their jobs to stay home with their children.

- The proposed elimination of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) means that the Work One Office in Monroe County would lose half their staff and the Region 8 Work One Office would have to eliminate services to 9,500 currently-enrolled individuals throughout its eight-county region.
- Job and opportunity loss means that more people will have difficulty putting food on the table. This will put more pressure on emergency food services. Each year, our food bank, pantries and kitchens have seen an ever-increasing need for services. These providers are already struggling. The cuts proposed by H.R. 1 mean that more people in the community will go hungry.
- Cuts to programs that address women's health mean that many women will not get the prenatal care they need, many will experience premature births, many illnesses will not be detected, and some women will die.
- Cuts to domestic violence programs mean that some women will stay in abusive situations, some will flee and live in poverty, and some will die.
- Cuts to housing initiatives mean that more people in our community will be facing homelessness. When H.R.1 was described to kids in a youth transitional housing program, the first question the residents asked was, "Where will we live?" Our homeless shelters are already at capacity with substantial waitlists.
- Similarly, we heard that our local Legal Services Organization focuses a good deal of its work on homelessness prevention. It does this through dedicated staff and AmeriCorps lawyers. Cuts to Legal Services and the complete elimination of the AmeriCorps program will severely compromise Legal Service's ability to prevent homelessness.
- Last year, Community Development Block Grant Funds went to feeding and housing over 8,500 community members. H.R. 1 proposes a 66% percent cut to this program.
- Last year, funds received by the Housing Counseling Program helped 534 residents through homebuyer and reverse-mortgage education and foreclosure prevention. H.R. 1 proposes to eliminate this program entirely.
- Social services agencies are engines of economic development. Cuts in programming mean that agencies will have to lay off staff and cut the very programs that help people in the community obtain employment.

- The 44% cut in Community Services Block Grant Funds means that our community's South Central Community Action Program will be forced to make drastic cuts, including:
 - shutting down offices and curtailing the assistance it provides to the community's most needy;
 - selling the homes in its affordable housing program;
 - reducing the Energy Assistance Program, a program that ensures people can heat their homes during the winter. As energy costs continue to rise, more and more people in this community rely on this resource; and
 - eliminating the Monroe County Circles® Initiative – an innovative and highly-effective program connecting low-income residents with moderate-income residents to effect systemic social change.

The above is just a fraction of the feedback we've received from the community. The story of what these cuts mean to our community is best told in the voices of our residents. We encourage you to review the documents we are attaching to this letter: a DVD of our "Listening Session," a transcript of the session and e-mails sent to the Council on this issue.

It is imperative that government be fiscally prudent. It is vital that the budget be balanced. However, it must not be balanced on the backs of children, the elderly, the poor, the victimized, the marginalized and the disabled.

The Bloomington City Council is charged with protecting the "health, welfare and safety" of the community. It is in this capacity that we strongly urge you to **reject the cuts to social services initiatives of H.R. 1** and maintain funding for these vital programs, including: The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program; Community Health Centers; Head Start; Maternal and Child Health Block Grants; Family Planning; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services; Community Services Block Grant; Workforce Development; HUD Community Development Fund; the Housing Counseling Program; Legal Services; the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and AmeriCorps.

Sincerely,



Susan Sandberg, President
& At-Large Representative
Bloomington Common Council
Bloomington, Indiana



**City of Bloomington
Office of the Clerk
Regina Moore**

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Regina Moore, Bloomington City Clerk

TO: The Honorable Richard Lugar

DATE: February 25, 2011

The enclosed material encapsulates the Special Session held by the Bloomington Common Council on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 to hear comments on proposed federal budget cuts to social services programs contained in H.R. 1.

The Bloomington Common Council held a "Listening Session" to allow our community to express first hand the devastation that federal budget cuts would have on our local community. The Session followed a regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting in which the legislation being considered was a resolution to approve the recommendations of the Mayor for the distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds. The juxtaposition of this resolution to allocate funds for social service programs along with the session to discuss local ramifications of the proposed massive cuts was both sobering and sad.

The enclosed contains:

- The letter from Susan Sandberg, President, Bloomington Common Council detailing the Council's concerns and urging rejection of the cuts to social services programs;
- The DVD recording of the proceedings of the Common Council Committee of the Whole on February 23, 2011 which is followed by the Special Session termed the "Listening Session" which can be accessed by starting the DVD at 25: 28;
- A verbatim transcription of comments made by service providers, recipients of services and concerned citizens regarding the local impact of the proposed cuts;
- A packet of all written comments and emails submitted to the Common Council and City Clerk which describe first-hand the massive impact of these cuts.

Finally, I stand in support of my Council colleagues and add my voice to the many urging you to reject the proposed cuts to social services programs and instead to protect the dignity and welfare of our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you.

Transcript of testimony

Bloomington City Council Special Session

HEARING ON THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED REDUCTION IN FEDERAL SPENDING ON
LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES

February 23, 2011

8:00 pm, City Council Chambers, 401 N. Morton, Bloomington INDIANA

Council Members Present: Timothy Mayer, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Andy Ruff,
President Susan Sandberg, Mike Satterfield, Chris Sturbaum, Brad Wisler

Absent: Stephen Volan

Also Attending: County Commissioner Iris Kiesling.

25:30

President Susan Sandberg: To summarize the agenda tonight, we are primarily here to listen. This is called a listening session. We mostly want to hear from the public who has so graciously come out this evening to participate in this public forum. What we are about to discuss has to do with legislation that has recently passed the House. If this legislation moves forward or is not altered or changed by the Senate or vetoed by our President, we will be facing immediate cuts, as has been discussed in our previous meeting, to the tune of perhaps 60-66%. These cuts will take effect immediately. We're not talking about next year's budget; we're talking about what can happen as soon as March 5th when a budget is allegedly passed.

So we want to hear from you about the impact, the impact to this community. So we will be having a discussion about that. Following the procedures, and we will get to a motion about procedures in just a minute, we will obviously adjourn this session and take everything that we hear tonight for advisement for further action.

Joining us tonight, is County Commissioner Iris Kiesling, who will be a part of the listening session this evening. Iris, we thank you very much for being here tonight and participating in this forum.

President Sandberg asked Council Attorney/Administrator Dan Sherman to read the proposal for the Special Session proceedings.

Sherman read a proposal for the procedure of the meeting looking to have a council member adopt the rules as a motion for proceeding with the Special Session.

The Council has convened this session to hear from the public about proposed federal cuts to social services programs currently before the U.S. Congress offered in HR1, and the advocacy role the council might take in regard to these actions.

The council will hear from the Mayor and then from directors of three local agencies directly affected by the impending reductions in federal spending. These directors will limit their remarks to no more than seven minutes a piece.

The council will set aside no more than 20 minutes for members or the Council and Monroe County Commissioners to ask questions of these directors.

Members of the public may speak once for no more than 3 minutes per person. Those wishing to speak are asked to line up at one of the two podiums, sign-in when at the podium, state their name and city or county of residence, and then address the Council in the issue.

Written comments may be placed in the box by the podium to the audiences' right or given to the City Clerk who is seated by the podium to the audience's left.

The Council will alternate hearing from speakers at one podium and the other, and the President is charged with assuring that speakers follow the rules and with keeping in order in the Chambers.

The Council desires to limit this Special Session to no more than three hours. In order to keep within that time frame, the President may indicate the last speaker in each line to be heard toward the end of the meeting.

The Council will consider a motion to direct the President to write a letter on behalf of the Council to federal officials regarding these proposed reductions in federal spending. Before sending the letter out, the President will circulate it among Council members for their suggestions. Council members will then briefly discuss and vote on the motion without further public comment.

It was moved and seconded that the rules read above be adopted for this Special Session. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Rollo: I have a question if it pleases the President. Are there any representatives from our congressional representative here this evening.

Sandberg: I do believe an invitation was issued.

Rollo: There is. Thank you for attending. If it pleases the president I'd like to make a motion after this motion to send the minutes of tonight's meeting with all the constituents' testimony to our congressional representative, as well as your letter.

Sandberg: We have one motion on the floor to adopt the rules. Let's deal with that first. All in favor of the first motion please say 'Aye.' (All say 'Aye.')

Those opposed? (No response)

All right, we have our rules. Council member Rollo?

Rollo: Yes, I would like to move that we send the minutes of this evening's meeting with the testimony of everyone here, all of our constituents and constituents of our representative, for his consideration.

Voice: Second.

Sandberg: Move and seconded. All in favor please say 'aye.'

Piedmont-Smith: A question Madam President. I couldn't hear Council member Rollo very well. Does this include sending the DVD which is being recorded this evening?

Rollo: I take that as a friendly amendment.

Sandberg: For a point of clarification, we would be in a position, and we've been receiving emails, and we may get further comment as a result of tonight's meeting, we can include those as well. Are we comfortable with that motion? All in favor please say "aye." (All respond "Aye.")

Sandberg: We will move on first of all, to hear this evening from the Honorable Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Mark Kruzan.

Mayor Kruzan: Thank you, Madam President; and thank you, Council. And thank you, council members for sponsoring a Listening Session. Listening, by our federal and state elected officials is precisely what needs to be happening here, but also throughout the country. We need to speak with a loud, unified voice because the message of the last election seems to have gotten blurred by many who were elected. I think we need to be heard. People voted for better government not crueller government. They voted to express their frustration that America needs to go back to work, not to cut the very funding that will help accomplish that goal. Social service and non-profit agencies, I'm known to say, are economic developers. I appreciated the explanation of the Jack Hopkins fund genesis and why it's named as it is. In many ways it should be considered an economic development fund. Social services and non profits in this community empower people to achieve their potential. I think we all would agree with that.

So let's talk politics, because unfortunately, as crass as that may sound, that's what this does come down to. I am a liberal Democrat, and I'm proud of that. But it's important to note that that's not the

political orientation of the elected audience that we need to reach. Instead we have to appeal to the elected representatives and to the electorate that put them into office. The message, to my mind, is a truly conservative one. Yes, government has to live within its means, but budgeting cheaply is not synonymous with budgeting wisely. The more we empower people to increase their earnings, the more our tax base grows and the more our entire community prospers. Making an investment that returns huge dividends is a fiscally responsible concept. Conversely, failure to adequately fund human infrastructure, which is a kind of clinical way of saying to invest in people and families, is a moral failure and will also exacerbate this nation's economic woes. And I have to say, as I went to sit down, and I saw a lot of familiar faces here, there is an element of sadness to this; a sadness beyond the obvious. When I see Leslie and Julio and Todd and Vickie and all, we know them all by just their first names -- these are people that struggle every day to help people who are struggling. The thought that this is the thanks they get is an extremely sad notion to me.

But I guess I also try to find the silver lining in everything, and this evening the silver lining is that this audience, this session is evidence that we have reason to be proud because we are a community that cares. And as every one of us knows that there is no greater loss than lost potential.

We have a common responsibility to stop these cuts. And I guess what I really want to end with is to say 'thank you' to all of you who work every day to improve the human condition. And it's important for me, and, I believe, for all elected officials here to know that there are many, many people in government and politics who stand with you.

Sandberg: Thank you, Mayor Krizan. Next we are going to hear from three agency and departmental representatives who will begin our discussion with a little bit of factual information about potential harm to come to their organizations as a result of these cuts. We did not discuss in advance who would go first, but I'm looking at my friend and colleague, Todd Lare. And Todd, you're kicking it over to Penny Caudill? Penny, you're first.

Penny Caudill: I know it's because following the Mayor is not the easy thing to do. He stole my first line, which is to say "thank you" to you. I'm Penny Caudill, the Administrator at the Monroe County Health Department. Again, thank you to you for allowing the community to speak, but also really to gather the true impact of what these cuts are. Because we're going to tell you about our individual programs, and how the services we provide are going to impact the community, but this is really a collective, community issue. It's the collective in here that you're going to take back and share. The opportunity to gather all that information and pass it along is what is so desperately needed. In addition to just what each individual agency is going to tell you this evening, I know there are other agencies that are going to be affected that are not here tonight. We always support those as well.

The family planning services at Futures Clinic, that is Title X funded, those are family planning dollars, and the Health Department manages that clinic. Those services are essential to maintaining and improving the health of our community. Futures Clinic provides services to Monroe and surrounding counties. Monroe County has a population of over 130,000 people, and when I looked at our Monroe County Health Assessment Data, and this is from 2008, about 20% of our population was below the poverty level. The estimated number of uninsured was about 24% for our county, and Indiana was at 14%. Given the economic downturn and loss of jobs, I would expect that those numbers would actually be higher tonight. I don't have today's numbers.

At Futures Clinic, fees are based on income, so the ability to pay determines your fee. We have a sliding scale. If you have limited or no income, you may not be charged anything, it's simply a donation for your services. If you make a lot of money, you would pay what you might pay at a doctor's office. Futures is the only local reproductive health care center that is based on a sliding scale. So it's the only place that you could go and get services based on your income.

85% of the clients served are at 100% or below the poverty level, and less than 1% of our clients are in the full pay category. About 5% of our clients are on Medicaid. We do have a few patients have health insurance, but not many. So the vast majority of the money that we get is from Title X. We have received some money this past year from temporary assistance to needy families. That's what provides and supports those services. 63% of our patients are in their 20s and about 17% are in their 30s. The vast majority of our patients are uninsured.

16% of the PAP smears that we did last year were abnormal. That means that they needed some sort of follow up. 8% of the Gonorrhea and Chlamydia tests that we did were positive.

Those are some of the local stats, but this is not just a local issue, as the Mayor reported, this is something going across the state and our nation. In Indiana, the loss of Title X funds means over 7500 will no longer have access that they have had to affordable preventive care and birth control. It could force the closure of 45 valuable health clinics and put 200 people out of work. Without access to low cost or free birth control and counseling, pregnancy related costs could increase by \$37,000,000.

Futures Clinic is a place where people learn about their reproductive health and about other health matters – tobacco, tobacco cessation, obesity, nutrition, binge drinking, and they receive referrals for those as needed. Our disease intervention specialist serves a 12 county area and in not one of those counties is there an actual STD, Sexually Transmitted Disease, Clinic. We rely on private providers and clinics like Futures, Title X providers, to help us screen and treat patients.

Monroe and surrounding counties saw a dramatic jump in early Syphilis cases last year and Futures Clinic was vital in insuring prompt and adequate needed when their help was needed. Untreated STDs including Gonorrhea and Chlamydia can lead to miscarriage and sterility. Without Title X funds, Futures Clinic may cease to exist. The uninsured, the underinsured, and the poor will no longer have access to affordable reproductive care. In addition, the other health education information that patients receive through Futures will be lost. For every dollar spent on family planning in Indiana, \$4.68 is saved. It doesn't seem as if it's worth that cut. Are we going to spend more in the long run to save a little bit of money?

Expected impact from the loss of Title X funds is an increase in sexually transmitted diseases, and the complications of untreated infections, an increase in cancer, and increase in unplanned pregnancies, possible miscarriages, and a lack of early prenatal care resulting in low birth weight babies. Title X funds are vital and they're and their loss will cost the nation and communities more in the long run.

Last night the County Council expressed great concern for the circumstance, and they are poised and ready to work with others in the community to insure that these services remain in our community. I hope that we will join them.

As I say that, we are all struggling to keep our own individual services going. But again, this is a collective community problem. It is more than any one of our services; it's how it impacts our entire community.

(Voice off camera seemed to ask about when Title X funds first came to Monroe County.)

Caudill: Title X... I don't know an exact... but yes we've received Title X funds in this community for around 30 years or more. I don't know exactly when they started. I've been around a while and we've gotten them all that time.

Sandberg: Up next is Mr. Todd Lare from the South Central Community Action Program, the Executive Director.

Todd Lare: Good evening. My name is Todd Lare. I'm a resident of Bloomington, and the Executive Director of the South Central Community Action Program.

Thank you to the Bloomington City Council and Mayor Kruzan for allowing this public comment session about the serious budget cuts that are being proposed in the United States House of Representatives. While the political decisions guiding this issue are being made in Washington, the real impact of these short sighted, uninformed and unwise decisions will be felt in every community across the country. I appreciate this opportunity to talk more about the effects on South Central Community Action and this community.

South Central Community Action Program serves Monroe, Morgan, Owen and Brown County, and has provided services to low income families since 1965. We operate a variety of programs including Energy Assistance, Head Start, Section 8 Housing Vouchers, Home Weatherization, Individual Development Accounts and host the Monroe County Circles Initiative. We also work in several other smaller programs including assistance to Bloomington Utilities customers, Trash Stickers, and trash bag assistance. For 2010 our budget was approximately \$11,000,000 and we employed nearly 120 staff members and served more than 13,000 individuals.

President Obama said in the State of the Union Address:

“So tonight I’m proposing that starting this year we freeze annual domestic spending for the next five years. This freeze will require painful cuts. I propose cuts to things I care deeply about, like Community Action Program. But let’s make sure that we’re not doing so on back of our most vulnerable citizens, and let’s make sure that where we’re cutting is really excess waste. Cutting the deficit by gutting our investments in innovation and education is like lightening an overloaded airplane by removing its engine. It may feel like you’re flying high at first, but it won’t take long before you feel the impact.”

His decision to focus on Community Action Programs as the sole domestic program that he singled out in the State of the Union Address was unwise and does what he says he will not do – on the backs of the most vulnerable citizens. The president’s fiscal year 2012 budget was released on Monday, February 14th, and in that budget the president proposed cuts to Community Service Block Grants by 50% and reallocating the remaining 50% of CSBG funding nationally and to a competitive process. Essentially that would mean that agencies like ours could be assured of NO Community Service Block Grant and that we could compete on the national level. It would mean great pockets of disparity in funding, largely affecting rural areas and would make it nearly impossible to fund any programming on a year to year basis.

During the last year, CSBG funds have been used locally to subsidize funding for 17 SCCAP owned affordable housing units, pay for back to school supplies and clothing for thousands of children, support the earned income tax credit locally, promote 211 and the soon to be launched “Bank On Bloomington,” fund the Monroe County Circles Initiative, provide food and fresh dairy products to Hoosier Hills Food Bank, frozen meals to seniors at Area 10 on Aging, bus tickets for riders of Bloomington Transit and Rural Transit, funding for Stepping Stones, job training for Certified Nursing Assistants and Truck Driving School, winter clothing for kids – coats, hats and gloves – where they had none, appropriate shoes for children, pay for the publication of the Safety Net publication that is widely distributed in this community, provided Bridges Out of Poverty Training in our four county region, funded SCCAP outreach offices in Nashville, Spencer and Martinsville, provide case management and family development services, allow Head Start students to go on a learning expedition to the Indianapolis Zoo, and to help pay for us to administer benefits like trash stickers that we do here. And it also provides us, the SCCAP staff to sit on numerous commissions, boards, committees and work groups to solve community problems.

The President’s budget also contains a 50% cut to LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) funds that are used to provide Energy Assistance and Weatherization services to low income families. Had we been funded at that level this year, we would have run out of funds in early February, and some Community Action Agencies around the state would run out, and did run out, in December. This is an unwise decision that could lead to people being frozen to death in their homes, or perishing in fires caused by unsafe ways of heating the home.

While those cuts would hurt SCCAP, the story gets worse. The House Continuing Resolution that 2011 programs are funded under until March 4th propose even deeper cuts. House Republicans proposed the Continuing Resolution two weeks ago that cut current year funding by \$56,000,000,000 and newly elected Tea Party members objected and demanded \$100,000,000,000. In the latest version of cuts that they passed in the House of Representatives a little over the weekend, Community Services Block Grant funding was identified as a \$305,000,000 cut or about 44% in the current year. This would represent a loss of \$184,000 for SCCAP in 2011 effective March 4th. Head Start is recommended for a \$1.1B cut, or approximately 15%. For our Head Start program, that would mean loss of \$292,000 in current year funding. This would likely result in a loss of Head Start slots for children, cuts to the transportation program and job loss. The national Head Start Association estimates that more than 3800 children in Indiana would lose their placement as a result of this year's cut.

After the House passed the Continuing Resolution, they sent it to the Senate, and immediately both bodies recessed to head back to their districts, where they are this week. The Senate, when they return on February 28th, will have approximately four days to consider the Continuing Resolution. Indications are that that package passed in the House will not be passed by the Senate. If they are unable to act during that time, Congress would have opportunity to pass a short term Continuing Resolution to keep government funded, and if they fail to do that, government will be shut down on or after March 4th. If the Continuing Resolution passes the Senate during the week of February 28th, then these cuts would become effective. If the CR passes the House and Senate in its present form, President Obama has threatened a veto.

So to sum up, for SCCAP in this community, this would mean substantially cutting or ending funding for the Monroe County Circles Initiative, closure of SCCAP outreach offices in three communities, significant reduction in family development services, the sale of all SCCAP affordable housing units, immediate cuts to the Head Start program which would include decreasing slots and elimination or reduction of transportation services, reduction in the number of Section 8 vouchers, and possible sale or refinancing of the SCCAP Administrative Office. Clearly, the message to local officials is "you can deal with these problems on the local level." I ask you, can you make up for the loss of \$11,000,000 in revenue this year? If these cuts play out, the people unable to received assistance and their families will show up on the doorsteps of this building and ask for your assistance. Given the property tax caps that were put in place, I well understand that local government will be unable to address these demands, as will as other non-profits and churches. And then what?

Congressman Young said in response to the proposed cuts: *"The reality is that the hard decisions we make today are necessary to get our economy back on track and to help those millions of Americans who remain out of work."* Finally, something we agree on, and that's something we do every day. So I would suggest that Congressman Young would support the effort to restore CSBG funding in HR1.

So what we need from you and all of you here are letters of support to President Obama, Congressman Young, Senators Lugar and Coats supporting CSBG services and the restoration of Head Start funding. Calls to the White House. Active, loud and unconditional support from the Mayor, County Commissioners, County Council, City Council, business leaders, faith leaders. Letters to the Editor and any thing else you can think of.

If you'd like to help, you can find us at Facebook at Save Community Action in the Causes section. Again, we appreciate the council for making this opportunity available. And I look forward to hearing from all those gathered here tonight.

Sandberg: Our last presenter this evening, a return to the podium*by Lisa Abbott, Housing and Neighborhood Development Director. (**reference to the earlier Committee of the Whole meeting*)
Ms. Abbott—

Lisa Abbott: Good evening, Lisa Abbott, Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department. I'm here to talk to you again about Community Development Block Grants and what the cuts that they're proposing actually mean to us.

I think that it was pretty clear from the presentation that I did earlier, that the cuts to Community Development Block Grant will hurt the city. But I don't mean the city's government. What I mean is the city, the people who live here. We talked about the allocations that we were going to make this year, and think about some of the agencies that I mentioned – Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Community Kitchen, Martha's House, Shalom, Middle Way House, MCUM. These are the people who are serving people in need. This is the safety net that we provide to the residents of Bloomington to make sure that they have a roof over their head and food in their stomach and a very safe place to take their kids. That's who's going to get hurt.

And so I wanted to give you an idea, because I didn't do this in my presentation, of the proposed cuts and what they actually mean in relation to dollars. If we get a 66% reduction, which is what we're kind of expecting, we would repetitive a total of \$285,999. That is half of what we allocated to physical improvements tonight. That means that social service agencies would only be able to get \$42,899. That's a third, it's terrible. Last fiscal year, which for us was June 2009 to May 31, 2010, the social service funding alone from CDBG helped to provide services to over 8500 people. These are the agencies that are doing the work. It's not me or my staff out there doing the work. We help them, we encourage them, and we provide them with funding. We basically do whatever they ask us to do whenever they ask us to do it. And we're happy to do that. These cuts are not going to hurt HAND social service programs, because that's not what we do. It's going to hurt social service agencies that are the direct service providers to the people who live here... who count on us to make sure that neediest people in our community have what they need to live. We're not talking live well; we're talking live at all.

It will affect our housing program, so I want to make sure that you're aware of that. If we get a reduction in Physical Improvements, that means that less people who have emergency repairs will be able to get repairs done. These are people who are very low income, who might have a roof leak or an electrical problem --things that really affect the habitability of their home. We're talking owner occupied housing because rental housing is done under another program in HAND. But we would be unable to assist as many people as we do now. We're talking about people who've experienced an accessibility issue, not being able to get a needed ramp or hand bars in their bathroom, simple things that we do that mean a lot because it allows them to stay where they are, to be part of the community that they've lived in, in some cases, the people we've helped have lived there decades! Multiple decades! So those programs would be affected.

The other program that I want you to be aware that is on the chopping block is the Housing Counseling Program. Based on HR1, they're talking about zeroing that out. That's the program that we use to provide housing counseling. We do default counseling, reverse mortgage counseling, pre-purchase, homeless and rental counseling. Now again, in Bloomington, rental counseling is not rental counseling most other places because those issues can be handled under our rental inspection program most of the time. But think about default. Last year our housing counselors saw over 500 households. 50% of them were default. These are people who are in danger of losing their houses. And to be perfectly honest with you, some of them did. Sometimes the best thing you can do as housing counselor is to help them gracefully figure out what they're going to do next. That program they're talking about zeroing out. The pre-purchase program which sponsors the Home Buyer's Club helps people learn about the home buying process to avoid a lot of what has created our problems.

The mortgage market failed, people got greedy, people didn't know what they were doing and they were taken advantage of. We've been teaching a class since 1999 to help people figure that process out so they don't fall into that trap.

Now, will we try to find a way to still provide some of these services? Probably.....just because you know us. I know that you know that's true. But still, it's going to hurt. It's going to hurt the amount of services that we can provide and the people that we can serve. And it's going to hurt our ability to help people --- the agencies that serve the people that they serve. And I will tell you that that causes me a great deal of pain.

I was able to talk about the agencies earlier today so I'm not going to repeat all of them. But I want you to remember the agencies that we talked about and the real dollars that we're talking about taking away, because a lot of these people plan on those dollars. Every year they get their CDBG allocations. It's part of their operating budget, and now they're going to be scrambling. And again, you know, we're very grateful that we have other dollars available, but still it's going to be a painful cut.

Sandberg: The next twenty minutes according to our rules adopted earlier will be for council to ask question of the four presenters. If we do not need the entire twenty minutes, I would ask that we yield that time back to the public, but we'll start with any council questions to anyone. Commissioner Kiesling?

Kiesling: I wanted to clarify something with Penny Caudill with the Health Department. Was this program provided by the hospital until about four or five years ago? And now it's located at the Futures Clinic and we've talked that for 30 years it's been available to our community. The other thing that came up was that what the Volunteers in Medicine do. Volunteers in Medicine often send these issues to the Futures Clinic, and you may want to expound on that a little bit.

Caudill: What we do at Futures is family planning. And that isn't really what Volunteers in Medicine does. When they have clients that come through here who meet Title X guidelines and need family planning services they refer them to Futures, just like we don't provide general health care at Futures. When we see clients and they need other medical services and they qualify for Volunteers in Medicine, we refer them there. And we do that referral services with other agencies in town, health care providers as well as other social service agencies. So we all serve different areas of our community; the same people but they have varying needs and these different agencies serve different needs of the citizens.

Kiesling: There are folks who don't qualify for Volunteers in Medicine but do qualify at Futures.

Caudill: Correct. And even if, for instance, if you thought you had a sexually transmitted disease, and you could go to Volunteers in Medicine, you've got to meet the guidelines, you've got to live in Owen or Monroe County, you've got to meet the guidelines and the process can take several weeks. If you've got a sexually transmitted disease, you don't want to have to wait a couple of weeks to be seen. So it's important to be able to get prompt treatment.

Sandberg: Any other council questions? Yes, Council member Isabel Piedmont-Smith?

Piedmont-Smith: I wonder if Mr. Lare could speak about the energy assistance and weatherization fund. Where do they come from and what is the proposed cut in those two programs?

Lare: Energy Assistance and Weatherization funds. The Weatherization funds comes from two different places, the LIHEAP Weatherization and the Energy Assistance come from the same pot. Currently the proposed budget cut in the present year is \$400,000,000 which is negligible. They were funded at about \$5,000,000,000 this year, so \$400,000,000 in current year is not going to have a great impact. The biggest cut is for next year and that's a 50% proposed cut in the President's budget....so roughly \$2,500,000,000 cut. 2012, Correct.

Piedmont-Smith: And are those both through HUD or.....

Lare: LIHEAP comes through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Piedmont-Smith: and the Energy Assistance?

Lare: The same.

Piedmont-Smith: Thank you.

Kiesling: What affect does that have on our budget for the CAP fund?

Lare: Through Energy Assistance we typically serve about 5300-5500 families a year, and in a given year, about 50 families in Weatherization – LIHEAP Weatherization.

Sandberg: Additional questions from council? And seeing no questions, we'll move to the main event. The next two hours will be yours. Before we begin this evening, I do want to review the rules that we use in public comment during our regular session and establish a little order here before we proceed.

With our rules that we adopted earlier the members of the public will have three minutes to make a statement this evening. When giving your report, please state your name for the record, and speak directly into the microphone. It is on one of these things (adjusts her microphone), you may have to adjust it, if you're not speaking right into it, it's difficult for you to be on the record. Again, we want you to state your name. There are tablets next to the podium; we're asking you to actually sign in. We will alternate back and forth at the podia so that we can keep the conversation flowing one comment after the other. Sign in as you approach the podium. All reports must be made from the podium; speakers may not approach the council dais without permission of the chair. Reports are intended to be statements from speakers; speakers may not engage in the council in question and answer exchanged during the reports from the public. The city council encourages civility in public discourse and requests that speakers refrain from language which would incite an immediate breach of the peace, refrain from undue repetition, extend the discussion of irrelevancies, obscenities and personal attacks against private individuals unrelated to the operation of the city. And keep in mind you only have three minutes.

Written statements will be added to the record of this listening session and can be left in boxes to the side of the podia on either side. Also we will be reading the email that comes to our office at council@bloomington.in.gov. So for those of you who are shy and don't feel like making public comment tonight, we will be taking comments in a written fashion.

We ask that you refrain from applause between speakers as this will detract from the time you have to make comments and will enhance a civil public forum.

So without further ado, who will be our first speaker this evening? Please approach the podium and state your name. You may queue up, we don't want any stage waits... I've produced shows, so keep 'em coming.

Meri Reinhold: My name is Meri Reinhold, I'm the Executive Director with Monroe County United Ministries. When I received the email about us giving a presentation on the potential impacts of the Continuing Resolution, I started digging into some of it, and I have to tell you that most of the people with whom we get funding can't tell us anything. They're basically saying that 'we know it's happening on the national level, but we don't know on the state level and thus we don't know what's happening to you.' So I can't give you a lot of the real details that Todd and Penny were able to give. However, at Monroe County United Ministries, for our 2011 budget, we were anticipating about \$400,000 in federal funds out of a total budget of \$1.1 million. So whatever level of cuts come down our way it's going to have a very serious impact on the services that we do provide. The biggest source of funds for us had to do with the Child Care Development Block Grant both through vouchers and a contract that we have with the state of Indiana. On the national level this is proposed to have a \$39,000,000 reduction, but exactly how that filters to Indiana is unclear to me. Indiana does have to provide a match to capture those monies, so if Indiana decides with its own economic disarray that it's not going to provide that match, it could have a deeper impact for us than just what would be happening with the Continuing Resolution.

In 2010 the grant brought a \$189,000,000 in federal funds to Indiana. There has been no discussion, as I said, or dissemination of information from the Bureau of Child Care to tell us how this will impact us. In 2010 MCUM served 60 children through this program, about 37% of our enrollment. Every family has to qualify by income and they are generally in the 30-50% of the area median income as established by HUD. This program keeps parents working and attending school and increases the potential for greater earnings for them in the future. It furthermore enables the children to attend a high quality program that gives them the best opportunities for growth and development of their potential. And through many presentations in this room, we've brought you lots of statistics about how an investment in a child, especially on the pre-school level, saves the community 10-12 times that amount of money as they mature.

The second program that will affect us is the Child Adult Care Food Program. Nationally that has the least amount of reduction of everything I've heard about so far. In fiscal year 2010 nationwide, 32 million school age and pre-school age children were served through this program. It places a great emphasis on low income children. (*time called*)

Okay.... I'll jump to the Emergency Food and Shelter Program which has not been mentioned in any of the data that I've seen so far. It's confusing to me as to whether it's going to be completely eliminated or cut by half. But in Bloomington we are on the second tier of allocation of funds from EFSP. We used to years ago be on the first tier. If they cut the funding by half, the agencies that are served, and the organizations and communities that are served through the second tier of funding will probably be eliminated.

Cecelia Peacock: My name is Cecelia Peacock, I'm a Monroe County resident and single mother of two Head Start Children as well as fourth grader in town. What the Head Start program has done for me is just unbelievable. In the past I've made use of entitlement programs like food stamps and CASY (*note: childcare voucher system program*), but I'm happy to say I'm off of both of those, due in large part to the Head Start program. I would like to move away from dependency. I want to be independent. The Head Start program is unique, in that with the entitlement programs, as soon as you get a little bit ahead, they take you off. Two steps forward, one step back. With this, you qualify one time, and they actually want you to do better for yourself. They offer you more resources as far as financial planning and all kinds of things. It also, when my children were in traditional child care, day care, they kind of put on DVDs all day. And this one affords them an educational and interactive environment that I could never afford otherwise. Never. It's inspiring. I volunteered in their classroom prior to having a job and a lot of the kids that are in there – this is the only chance they

would have for anything like that. I've watched some of the children; their speech over the course of six months has changed drastically – their speech capabilities.

That said, I also have a brother in the Weatherization Program. He searched for a job for a year and a half, and then with the Stimulus Package was able to find this job. He was able to find their dream home -- they had four children -- find their dream home, a cabin out in Greene County. They're living there happily. His wife is able to stay home and be a home educator for their four children. If this money goes away, he's out of a job and in a strange twist, her previous job, if she were to be the breadwinner, was a Head Start teacher. What are you gonna do? It's amazing how many people I know that this is affecting. I just really want to make the point for my family, extended family, friends, it would make a huge difference. I don't even know that I could even work if I didn't have child care offered at the best price ever – free.

Bobbie Summers: I'm Bobbie Summers. I'm the Executive Director of Martha's House which is an emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness. In January of 2009, it was as though a flood gate opened and Martha's House was at capacity. We expanded our program into the dining room of the Community Kitchen providing overflow. We filled those beds and turned away, daily, people – redirecting them to every program that we could, including our Interfaith Winter Shelter. In spite of that we still ended up with a waiting list of almost six pages long of people who were in need of shelter. Even though we did try to provide those programs to people we were not with the resources we had a year ago, two years ago, able to meet the needs that is really growing in our community. I've been so impressed our community and its support of people in crisis. I have sat, as I'm sure as has everyone in this room, in disbelief as I've listened to the conversation, the national conversation about this current issue, where we're told that things are going to get passed and that everyone's going to have to tighten their belts. But we gave our tax increases; we continue them for the rich. The people who were responsible for the problems on Wall Street were ever penalized in any way. We watched in horror as they got bonuses. Yet the three percent of our gross national product that is spent on the most vulnerable people is the place in which we, as a country, have chosen to try to make a difference, to tighten the buckle of our waistband. Who will be compromising their life style, what little they have, to address the needs of really the most wealthy of this country in allowing them to not help cover the cost of this crisis we are not in.

Scott Alber: My name is Scott Alber. I'm a volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul and director of the furniture operations. The Mayor spoke about better government, not crueller government. What I wanted to speak about, this money that goes to, especially SCCAP and all these programs, has the leverage effect. It IS better government; it is actually an effective use of money. St. Vincent de Paul has 70 active volunteers. Now part of the reason that we get those volunteers is that people feel that they can make a difference. And there's been people in the religious community that have had social services. What we do with SCCAP, with their Energy Assistance program, a lot of times that will save a family from getting their heat turned off, and then we come in and help them with their light bills. That allows the kids to go to school, and allows the husband to go to work. If that doesn't happen, if SCCAP gets their funding cut, that puts more of a strain on St. Vincent de Paul and other people in the religious community. The effect of that is that it may ultimately cause a decrease in the volunteers. So in essence you're losing the leverage effect of those dollars. We also know from anyone from OMB to Moody's who have done studies on government funding and what is most simulative, we know that the tax cuts, according to them, for the top two percent, actually almost has a negative return. A lot of people save that money; they don't put that money into the economy. We know that unemployment benefits and programs like SCCAP -- that goes directly into the economy, it helps landlords and we basically get 1.75 dollar for every dollar we get back in stimulus effect. As

the mayor said, speaking from the straight conservative point of view, this is effective dollars, this is good government and it should not be cut.

Jamie Andree: My name is Jamie Andree. I'm the Managing Attorney of Indiana Legal Services here in Bloomington. We provide free civil legal assistance to low income people, primarily people at 125% of the federal poverty level. Because, as Lisa Abbott pointed out so eloquently, there is no limit to the need, we focus our efforts on the most pressing, critical legal needs of the population that we serve. To put it in the most concrete terms, I view our mission as to keep as many people as possible from needing to be at Martha's House. We are really in the business of homelessness prevention, and that may be defending foreclosure cases, it may be defending eviction cases, it may be defending collection cases so that the money that a low income household needs to pay for it's rent or utility bills doesn't end up being taken out of their pockets for debts that they don't owe. Our office is funded 71% by the Legal Services Corporation. We also have other federal funding sources. Legal Services Corporation, for those of you who don't know, is actually a very, very, very tiny part of the federal budget. The entire Legal Services Corporation budget for field programs throughout the country is only \$394,000,000. So any cut will have a direct impact on the services that we provide.

We also receive some funding from AmeriCorps. And I want to make sure that I mention the AmeriCorps program, and I don't know if there's anyone else here to talk about it tonight. My office has two lawyers, two lawyers, a significant portion of our staff, who are funded through the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Program. If the cuts that have been passed are the cuts that go into effect, one of those lawyers will be finished at the end of August. Her project is homelessness prevention for renters. The other lawyer's project will be finished at the end of September. His project is foreclosure prevention. Neither of these lawyers makes very much money, far less than you can imagine that most lawyers would ever work for.

The cuts passed by the House amount to about 20% of the budget for the field programs for 2011. Last year my office provided legal help to over 1100 households. You can do the math yourself and see that it would be a significant reduction that we could help.

Marc Haggerty: I'm Marc Haggerty. I live here in Bloomington. To me these problems are in a context. What I try to do is to look at how this came about. A little over 10 years ago the government was riding on a surplus, but since then, we're broke. We've had a war, or we still have two wars, and I don't know how people can think that we can wage war in this country and not have to suffer. So I've been against this military intervention since the beginning. It seems to me that this is the exactly the result of that kind of thing. You combine that with the incredible theft and these tax cuts that have gone on on Wall Street, and with the House of Representatives and the Congress and the previous president and this president, too, and you come up with class warfare. It's what it really amounts to. You don't see Representative Young wanting to cut anybody's salary on his staff, or any part of his staff, or any part of his own salary, or any part of his own health care. This is very concerning.

Our Indiana constitution, which nobody has apparently read, that I've ever talked to, which is amazing because I talk to so many government officials that are pledged to support that very document. That document says that we have the right at all times to alter and reform this government, this government in Indiana. It also says we have the right to petition and instruct. And when they talked about 'instruct' they didn't use the word inform. They talked about the word instruct, a much more active word. I'd like to suggest that this community, on its own, has enough wealth, we have enough wealth to take care of ourselves. We have, I'd guess, over a thousand millionaires in this community. We have millionaires so rich they can give buildings to the football team. I think we can look to our own community for our own strength and when we talk about needing money and needing wealth, the southern part of Indiana is underlined with natural gas. And who should own that natural

gas and coal, but us. In Alaska you get a dividend for being an Alaskan. What do you get for being in Indiana? Just getting your coal and your oil and your gas being taken out. And they're pumping over in Western Greene right now.

Tawana King: Hi, my name is Tawana King, and I'm a Bloomington resident. I am a part of the Monroe County Circles Initiative. And due to my Circles family, I have done a lot of things. They helped me push me through college. I will receive my Associates Degree in May because of Circles. I have kids that have graduated from MCUM. This budget funding I don't understand. I'm trying not to cry. But it hurts me because I'm a mom that's going to school, I work 30 hours a work to supply a family of six. That's not enough. It's never enough. And because of Circles, because of MCUM, because of CASY, I'm on Food Stamps, it's like Catch 22. You take a step forward, I'm being pushed back. And this has just hit me hard right here. Because we need this Circles funding, Circles is great. I just graduated in September, and right now we are going to get our Allies. And I'm so excited because of Circles and it just hurts really bad. I don't believe this needs to happen. They have helped me so much and MCUM has helped my kids so much. I have one daughter that's going to graduate in May from that pre-school program. They have had all four of my kids and I love them, dearly. And the Boys and Girls Club -- I volunteer there twice a week. They don't deserve this either. I don't think nobody in Monroe County or anywhere deserves what they're trying to do to us.

Kay Goodman: I don't know if you heard her, but that's Tawana King. She's part of the Circle's family. She's great. She's graduating from IVY Tech in May. We're very proud of her. She's utilized the program and it's done a lot for her.

My name is Kay Goodman and I've been involved with the Monroe County Circles Initiative since March of 2009. This will be the first program to go when these cuts happen.

Briefly and quickly: Circles is in 57 communities in the United States. I have tried to get out of poverty my whole life. I've raised two girls, worked two jobs, tried to go to school. The recipe for Circles is great. You go through 19 weeks of training. During the training you build a community. At the end of training you graduate. You have three Allies that are added to your family, and they intentionally become your friends. When you live in poverty it is very hard to network. When developing these intentional relationships you learn to develop the language. There is a middle class language. Being able to communicate your ideas and educate yourself is a big part of overcoming poverty. If you're not understood, or you're just looked at as lazy and you don't want to better your life, there you have it. You usually can't.

I'm a sophomore at IVY Tech College. This is how my life has improved since March of 2009. I was inducted in my second semester into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and I currently hold an officer position. Even ten years ago, to fathom that I would be here, is great... It's really empowered me. My Allies have been a big part of my success at college teaching me how to write papers. I had been out of school many years and I didn't know where to start. And encouraging me to keep going because there are those times when you're like "I can't do this!" But they always had kind words of wisdom. They listened to my ideas and even when we don't agree, it's a mutual respect. All of this is volunteer -- they volunteered to do this. They had training; they knew what they were getting into.

Recently, I don't have a car, during finals they rotated and gave me rides to school for finals. This is not a hand out. They do not give me money. This is a hand up. It's hard work and dedication. Please do not cut the Community Service Block Grant. It will change people's lives, not for the better. It would be a step backwards, not forwards.

Linda Patton: I'm Linda Patton, I'm a resident of Monroe County. I'm a proud member of the Circle's Community. I appreciate that we can speak here and I appreciate the support that we've

gotten from the council. I'm here tonight with a packet of letters written by various volunteers that work with Circles, and there's one that I'd like to read to you.

Dear City Council,

My name is Emily Johnson and I am a doctoral psychology student at the University of Indianapolis. As part of my internship, I have spent the past semester working as a youth program volunteer with the Monroe County Circles Initiative, which is funded by CSBG. My 'job' with Circles is to plan the youth programming curriculum and volunteer with the kids every Thursday night. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this meeting, but it was important to me to express to all of you, the importance of this programming in so many lives.

I cannot express to you how fortunate I feel to have worked with Circles, even just for this short period of time. Every week, I forgo driving back to my home in Indianapolis to stay in Bloomington to work with the kids at Circles. Every week, I am treated as a member of the family in the Circles community as we eat a meal together, and families entrust me with the care of their children. Every week I am inspired and blown away by the determination of the Circles families. Believe me when I say that Circles isn't like any other program that serves families in poverty. We as professionals are not serving these families – we are partnering with them, and in many ways they are serving us. The Circles leaders bring to the table what they want to get out of circles. The Circles leaders are a group of incredible people who fly in the face of every stereotype we Americans hold about people in poverty – I truly feel that people like this and programs like this are the key to breaking the poverty cycle.

Even so, I personally spend very little time with the Circles leaders themselves; rather, I spend my Thursday nights with their children. We play psychoeducational activities for the older kids, and free play for the little ones, but more importantly we offer them a non-judgmental, enriching environment with dedicated volunteers. I have seen some of these kids make developmental strides through the youth program that they may not otherwise be able to make. Children who previously could not keep themselves from striking out at peers are now leaning to share and take deep breaths before expressing their feelings with words. These are 3 year olds, no less! Show me a three-year-old with impulse control and I'll show you a successful youth program.

As a young professional training to be a psychologist, I can tell you that children, regardless of their economic status, rarely get the honest, non-judgmental nurturing attention from non-family members that these kids get at Circles. In fact, programs like this just don't exist in the world. Kids live with perpetual conditions of worth, expectations, and electronics. At Circles, we offer them an emotional outlet and a place to grow and develop.

Last week, as per our regular group meeting, the kids went around the circle to say something 'new and good' in their lives. One of the kids said: "My new is that I just met this new volunteer who is helping me with my math, homework, AND my good is that she is really nice and that I really like her."

And that's the spirit of Circles.

(note: entire letter was not read aloud due to time constraints. It is included in packet of Circle's letters)

Sheri Benham: Hi I'm Sheri Benham. I'm Executive Director of Stepping Stones and we provide transitional housing and supportive services to youth aged sixteen to twenty-one in our community. We are a small program but I think we make a big impact. Over the five years that we have been here we have served over forty-five residents and we definitely do empowerment. Of the residents we have right now they all have jobs, they've graduated from high school, we have two at Ivy Tech. I've brought a couple of other people here who would like to speak tonight too.

Bethany Smith: My name is Bethany Smith I am a resident at Stepping Stones. I've been there for about three weeks and it's totally changed my life. I came from a home of abuse and drugs. I couldn't live like that. Stepping Stones became my family and within twelve days of being there I got a job and I have support, they are my family. So I am asking you guys for the bottom of my heart to help keep them going.

Lauren Hall: My name is Lauren Hall I am the independent living coach at Stepping Stones which means I am the social worker. I have the privilege of working with these residents everyday on their life skills. I just can't imagine what a budget cut of this size would do to an organization that is so small. Today we told our residents about the proposed budget cut and their first reaction was where would I live? That is the thing that is really alarming and I can't even believe that it's something that

is being considered. As a community member and a student who went to IU I studied social work and I did my senior year practicum at Head Start. While there I did a research study based on Federal studies about the effects that Head Start has on families and children development. It's just an amazing program for families in need and children in need and that too I can't imagine what it would look like if we weren't able to serve all of the youth in our community that really really need this. I would really hope that if this is something that goes further along that the community would do something about it, show up and make some noise if need be. Thank you.

Susan Sandberg: Make some noise indeed and I am going to allow you additional time. This is exactly what we do in social services we do more with less. You go, Ms. Benham.

Sheri Benham: The only other thing I want to say is it just feels like we are going backwards because over the five years we've been able to expand services, we've been building stability and now if we're going to lose money since we are a small agency we get \$15,000 from CDBG that is a lot of our budget. So that would mean that we would have to cut staff, cut something and I don't even know what that would be so like Lauren said that was the first reaction of the residents where are we going to go and I said I don't know. That is something we would have to figure out together so thank you for this opportunity.

Susan Sandberg: Thank you, all three of you.

Marianne Aurich: Evening my name is Marianne Aurich and I am a Monroe County resident. I have with me a copy of a letter that I've drafted that I've sent to every politician that I can think pertinent from the President on down and I encourage other people to do so. One of the easiest ways to do it is through a website (www.congress.org) you go to whatever politician's name you want to see you click on their contact section and there is a line you can click on to send a message. It's really easy.

The reason I am not going to read this letter is because it's rather lengthy but it gives examples from my career. Specific things that people in need of assistance go through, for instance, have you ever tried to sleep when you could see your breath in the air and frost on the floors and inside the window panes? How about having to find safe childcare for your pre-schoolers when you're working a minimum wage job as a sole supporter of your family, and can your elderly mom keep up with them and still take care of herself? Is your sister's boyfriend really okay to be around them day in and day out with the noise they make? Perhaps you were a latch key kid yourself trying to find safe and interesting things to do at home while you were alone. It was harder if you had to take care of younger siblings or cook meals or work a part-time job. Do you have any experience with parts of your body or mind not working properly no matter how hard you try? Have you ever had to get around in a wheelchair or without clear vision? Have you lost a job or a relationship because you lost your ability to keep up after an accident or surgery?

This is the real world for the programs that we are talking about and the clients that need their services desperately and no one goes to those offices and goes through the agony of that application process who is not desperate.

I have been a social worker for 150 years, I graduated from Columbia University in New York, it's the best school there is. I have done all kinds of social work. Before retirement I was a Master's level social worker and educator for close to forty years in health and mental health. I have worked the front lines and the administration in urban, suburban, and rural settings and I am talking the middle of no place New Mexico. With all ages and many different ethnicities and I have been through some of these tough treks myself, now on Social Security I am still putting my money where my mouth is and I want my Government to do the same. We pride ourselves on our religious and moral ethics and we tell other countries to take care of the same kinds of things how do we dare do that! I

urge you to write anybody you can think of writing and I really feel since I have seen this over and over again in my career this really does amount to discrimination.

Susan Sandberg: Thank you Ms. Aurich Next comment to my left.

Kay Bull: I'm Kay Bull. I had a long little speech planned out but on my way up here I thought you know there is a simple solution to all of this. If you want your money back all you have to really do is change your voting ticket to Republican and when they come through here with this military drug running highway that they want to put here well you just sit on the sidelines and serve them sandwiches and Kool-Aid on the side and they will probably throw you in a little bonus.

I imagine now that spring is in the air just about to be in the air that the poker games around down will be folding up now that the race tracks and all the outdoor gambling sources will be opening up. I am not much of a gambling person myself but I am willing to make Bloomington a bet that this summer a minimum of three times more road work dedicated to the automobile catering to the automobile will happen then given to its alternatives.

The Republican Party hates Bloomington. Republicans hate it down here because there is too much solidarity in this community, too many people who will stand up and say things. I think if Mitch Daniels if he could fly over Bloomington and just burn it down he would. I really think that people need to be a little bit madder about what's going on. You've got a government that feels like they are giving you their money and they are not giving you their money. They are just giving you back your money. They have really not much right at all to control any of it.

Mostly, what I think this whole thing is about is Mitch Daniels trying to make the Presidency and what will happen is that this funding will get cut. We have seen all over the place tonight where it is going to hurt and how bad it is going to hurt but when they start easing off of that and letting some of those dollars start flow back in, it will be around the time that Mitch Daniels is putting in his play for the Presidency. I think that is probably enough right there.

Gracia Valliant: My name is Gracia Valliant and I am a Bloomington resident. The magnitude of it is almost more than what I can wrap my head around. I am an interpreter at Futures which is one of the few places where Latino women can go to receive exams, pap smears. And sometimes they pay because they can afford to pay and sometimes they don't pay, because like others, they can't afford to pay. Futures was the first medical establishment in Bloomington to offer interpretative services to Latino women, and we are paid instead of having to volunteer our time.

I am a Circle Ally, I've worked in early childhood education. My concern about the cuts in CDBG money is that a lot of what others have expressed. At MCUM and Head Start what will happen with these families is they are working or they are in school and they can't afford childcare without the CDBG money. They will be on the dole again. I wonder how that can be good economic and fiscal responsibility to blatantly cut without really considering what works and what doesn't work.

Circles works. Head Start works. Helping people stay out of poverty works. The magnitude of it, again, is just hard to find the words to even address the issue.

But, I want to thank you for this forum. I want to thank everyone for coming tonight and I also want to, and I don't know whether Mr. Lare will appreciate this or not, but I was at the Circles meeting when he told us about this. Mr. Lare is the first director of a program I have ever heard of to ask for a reduction in his salary. I think that is commendable I think that tells his constituents and the people he serves that he understands and is willing to take part in what they are having to go through. So, I think he deserves a lot of recognition for that. Thank you.

Shawna Meyer-Niederman: I'm a resident of Bloomington. I'm talking on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club. The Crestmont Boys and Girls Club, along with many other agencies here, are providing

invaluable and necessary and preventative and emergency services to our community's most needy citizens. At the Crestmont Club, 52% of our families have an annual income of less than \$5,000. Eighty percent of our members are from single female head of household families. Without a doubt we're serving the community's highest concentration of the impoverished children that live within this community. Many of them and their families have innocently found themselves in these seemingly impossible situations.

The Crestmont Club is providing hope and opportunity to these children that so desperately deserve it and they're empowering youth and breaking the grasp of poverty. We're doing this by promoting growth in 3 primary areas, 1) academic success, 2) healthy lifestyle choices and 3) positive and character citizenship. Our Crestmont Club members benefit from these programs qualities and their results prove their impact. On a national average the Boy and Girls Club of America members have half the national drop out rate. Our members of the Crestmont club that participate in our after school tutoring program have improved their reading scores by 89% and math scores by 73%.

If these kids weren't at the club, where would they be and what would they be doing? The lives that we are changing are insuring that they are being caring productive and responsible citizens and that they will be for the future. Without us doing that now there is no guarantee that they will be doing that. Not only is my job on the line with these budget cuts, but so many people that are invaluable to making these programs and organizations work. It's the people that are going to be losing their jobs that are going to be losing the services. If we can't be open the parents aren't going to have a place for their kids to go and the list goes on and on. What we don't pay for now we are going to pay a heavy, very detrimental price in the future. And it's a huge impact that will change every single person and every citizen in this country.

Colleen Moore. I'm a Monroe County resident. I want to talk about Circles. To me Circles is an excellent program. When you live in poverty it's very hard to find encouragement, especially in your own group. And to me, my Circles Allies gave me the encouragement and strength and motivation to go to IVY Tech. This is my second year. I have been wanting to do this for 13 years. And I finally have the motivation. That is what makes Circles true. True to the word, true the word that they do help people. I'm a living example.

And my other concern is head start. To me Head start is an excellent program. My daughter was thrilled to death to be accepted into Head Start. Before she was accepted she always wanted to ride the school bus. So we had to go to the Bloomington to let her ride the Bloomington Transit. To me, with these cuts, how am I supposed to tell my 5 year old daughter "You can't go to Head Start?" You can't ride the school bus anymore. This is where our tax dollars should go. If they don't go there, where are they going?

A lot of us are poor and our children should not have to pay the consequences of that. It's not fair. A lot of people can sit back and they can talk to their friends, and they can talk to their neighbors about what's going on in the economy, but it's not doing any good. It's not doing any good until you speak up. Write the President, write somebody, stand here today. I don't like to talk in public. But to me it's important enough to stand here today and speak up. I want to thank you all for listening to me. Thank you.

Sandberg: I will take a break to tell you that these yellow sheets that you can find over here on both desks are your representatives. There are addresses, you can write them in DC, you can call them in DC, obviously this meeting is taped and will be sent their way, but the more people who let them know, the better.

Beth Krouse: I'm Beth Krouse, the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana. We serve kids in Monroe and Owen County. I'm also a Monroe County resident. I just

wanted to touch on a couple of things. We are one of those listed who get CDBG funding and it's very important to us. It equates to half of a full time salaried position. With our safety and risk management issues, it means that if I lose that, I will immediately have to cut matches. I will immediately have to cut children. Safety is too important to us, and I cannot overload one of my match support specialists.

The other effects of funding cuts for us, is in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. We were just recently awarded a grant through there that is allowing us to reach out to over a hundred of the most high-risk and at-risk youth in our community. They're going to be seeing a 45% cut. That will equate.... this also funds a national organization of Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and allows us to reach out to over 30,000 kids. We're going to see a drastic cut that way.

One program that is going to be eliminated completely in the budget cut is also mentoring children of prisoners grants. That allows us to reach out to children who have incarcerated adults, guardians, significant others. That is completely wiped out by this budget announcement. Again, to us, that means we have to quit serving kids.

Our point and what I look for is also to educate. We know these times are tough. And we know we need to be due diligent and look for proven outcomes. We do have proven outcomes. We affect education, we affect graduation rates, and we affect incarceration rates later on.

A national studied should that for ever dollar invested in a mentoring program there is a \$3.28 return. So, I say it is also an investment that pays down the road. I urge you to continue to be involved increase your knowledge about proven and fact based programs that you can receive the greatest benefit for. Not only immediate, but we are paying up front so we are not paying down the road, three times the cost. It's also heartening because we serve the kids, but so many of our families are involved with Circles, with Middle Way House, with so many of the different programs. We are so interconnected and if we are losing one, we are losing multitudes. Thank you.

Jennifer Head: My name is Jennifer Head and I serve as the Vice President for Counseling Involving Families at Head Start. Todd gave you a lot of the numbers. but I just want to come as a parent. These are my two boys and these are their friends. I just want to let you know, Head Start means a lot to my children. I come from a family with not a lot of opportunities. I've worked really hard to make sure that they do better. Head Start helps aid in the early detection of learning and physical disabilities before they hit grade school. Head Start tries to catch them before it's hard to correct. Just last week we caught a sensory disorder with two of my children. A year ago I was ready to give up as a parent, I felt like I was awful because I did not know what to do for my children. I felt like I was constantly failing my children and Head Start was there for me and got me where I needed to be to figure out what I needed to do for my kids.

If parents lose Head Start, parents are going to lose a lot of information and opportunities to be hooked up with things that they could do for their children. If we lose Head Start then teachers are going to have more responsibility when they hit kindergarten because they are going to have to teach these children how to act in a classroom. They are going to have to spend time doing those things on top of trying to teach them what they need to know and where they need to be. We already test very low, and I don't understand why children are continually being targeted to save money and I don't think it should be stand for. I want to say that Head Start is a big child care thing for a lot of parents to work and you are going to see children left at home with their younger siblings. Ten, eleven, twelve year olds like I was when I was "parentalized" at ten years old. You are going to see kids that are going to have much more responsibility then a ten, eleven, or twelve year old should hold.

I understand budgeting because I do it for six. Sometimes you have to pass on dishwashing soap; you have to hand wash the dishes; you have to take the time to do it. Sometimes you don't, I have four children I don't have the time but I do it. But I can't skimp on diapers ever, I need diapers.

We need to educate our children now and we need to stop taking money from our children and programs that make them better members of society because we need to stay with them because only they are going to make it better and they aren't going to have these problems if we focus our attention on them. We have these problems but they don't have to if we continue to fund the programs to save our children.

Sandberg: Can I have your young gentleman stand in front of the podium because I want to read their t-shirts and I hope the camera can get a shot. It says "I am the future invest now." If that is not a great message for tonight then I don't know what is. Thank you, young men, for being here.

Jennifer Head: There are a lot of people here, but not near the number of families that are going to be affected or children. I had a rough estimate of 218,000 children, I don't know if that is Indiana or nationally, that's nationally. That's a lot of children and that is a lot of disabilities that could be missed. That is a lot of things to miss.

Sandberg: I probably do need to stop you right now. Thank you so much for your time. Thank you very much for being here.

William Vance Jr.: Hi my name is William Vance Jr. and the NAACP opposes the cuts to the Community Service Block Grant funds and legislation that would negatively impact the poor. The NAACP supports the Big Brother and Big Sister program, the Crestmont Club, Stepping Stones, the Head Start, the South Central Community Action Program, and the Future's Clinic. Again, the NAACP opposes the cuts to the Community Service Block Grants and we support the Mayor. Thank you.

Sandberg: Thank you Mr. Vance and the NAACP.

Toby Strout: Good evening. My name is Toby Strout I am the Executive Director of Middle Way House, a national model of domestic violence program and a rape crisis center. We have a social service budget of about one million dollars. Hundreds of thousands of those dollars come from government sources. So, despite the fact that we might be a larger agency than some, the impacts of those cuts would be devastating.

When I took the job at Middle Way House I had a lot of people who were very skeptical that I would be able to stand it. When I asked why they said, well, those women will drive you crazy. Well, I have been doing this job since 1987 and the women have never driven me crazy. I would have to tell you in all those years I haven't worked with one who wasn't doing the best she could with what she had at any given moment. They do their part. In truth they have been doing their part against great odds for decades, with each decade throwing up additional barriers to their achievement of safety and self reliance. I have been very proud of them, I have been very proud of us.

We have struggled mightily and as a consequence thousands upon thousands of women and children are alive today who might not otherwise have been. They have moved from danger to safety and many, many hundreds of them have moved from dependency to self determination. But you can put up too many hurdles. And if you do, there will be consequences. And those consequences will be lost lives. Women and children will die because places like Middle Way House do not exist -- because that is honestly and truly what we need to be looking at. And of those who survive, they will face futures of poverty and homelessness because the opportunities are being taken away. Or they will go back to dangerous situations and they will raise their children in a home where there is domestic violence and the havoc that those children will reek I could go on for many, many minutes and I don't have them, but this is not the way that we build our nation.

This is not the way we increase our security. It is completely wrong headed and I really and truly believe that last election was not about a party, it was not about this happening. It was about people's frustration with the intransigence of the unemployment figures. And what they really wanted was a change that would make that change. That is something that I think we all want. We need to find a way to go about it, which is about investment in programs like those represented here and investments in entrepreneurship and investments in clean energy and all the things that will provide jobs and secure futures for our people. Thank you.

Kristofer Bowman: Hello I am Kristofer Bowman and I am here to represent and support the Head Start Program here in Bloomington tonight. I have a son who is currently in Head Start and two younger sons. My second to the youngest son will be starting next year.

What I am here to say tonight is I think Head Start is a big help on early childhood development, and it helps with the social skills that children will need when they get into school. It helps them create bonds with other children and learn how to associate with adults who will soon be their teachers in the coming years. Something that I am hearing tonight, other than Head Start is that with these budget cuts they will be taking away from so many things that help the poor people in the community in these days.

For instance, I heard them talking about the Boys and Girls Club. Something that scares me about taking away from the children in the Boys and Girls Club, and the same as taking away from the children in Head Start, is it is just a gate way to crime. These kids, if they have no where to go they will be out on the street and they are not going to be learning good moral values. They are going to be out getting into things that are going to get them into trouble which then will put them in jails, which then will take more of our tax dollars to feed them.

I am really here tonight to support Head Start. I am not sure exactly what to say I made a couple of phone calls to the Senators today. I really enjoyed listening to everything that I heard in the meeting tonight. I just want everyone to know that I think Head Start is a very wonderful thing for the young kids and for the thousands of kids who are going to be pushed out of the program, their parents are going to have to find out what to do with them. It is just going to be devastation. That's all.

Carrie Felton: Hi my name is Carrie Felton and I am a member of the Circles community and I would like to speak on behalf of two of my very dear friends who are unable to be here tonight.

The first is Laura and she wrote her comments down for me so I will just read. She writes:

Three programs at the South Central Community Action Program that are affected by the proposed cuts have affected my family in the most positive of ways. Circles, Head Start, and the Individual Development Account or IDA program. Head Start came at a time of need my son and I were able to grow together as a family unit. My son excels in school today and I know it was because Head Start offered the patience and learning methods that just work. We did many things together as a family through Head Start that we would not have been able to do without it. To hear that 4,000 kids in Indiana will not be able to experience this program brought tears to my eyes. Also Circles, is a leadership program that I am a part of, which you already heard our friends, Tawayna and Colleen speak already about. It was through Circles that I found out about the IDA program. After completing a budgeting class I received an IDA account which is a special savings account that encourages saving. There is a matching program with it. You can use this account to purchase a home, pay for school, or start a small business.

I feel like I am a voice in the community. I have watched a lot of things come and go, change around me. These budget cuts scare me. We as a community have a chance to change the cycle of poverty by adding a perspective of people living in poverty. Thanks to the programs I mentioned, for the first time I feel accomplished and in control. There are lots of other programs, I only mentioned a few that are affected, but let's pull together to prove the importance of government backed community support. My name is Laura Dwiggins. I am employed full-time and go to school part-time and I am in support of no cuts to community assistance programs.

My other friend Leslie she also works thirty hours a week and attends Ivy Tech pursuing a degree in criminal justice. She is a single mother of three and she relies on public assistance like Section 8. Because of how much she works she is ineligible for things like Medicaid or health coverage for herself, but she chooses to work. She works her tail off and both of them, unfortunately they were

sick. Leslie had a fever and I had to beg her to stay home and rest because she feels so passionately about this. I think when we were allowing the executive directors to speak someone mentioned that they were experts. Leslie and my friend Laura are experts on poverty. The message Leslie wanted me to tell you is that if you take the supports away it does not empower people it makes them feel powerless.

Sandberg: Thank you Ms. Felton for speaking on behalf of your friends.

David Keppel: Good evening members of the council. My name is David Keppel. I am chair of the Just Peace Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington. I want to thank you very much for holding this listening session. I want to thank the people who have spoken and express my gratitude and awe for the work that goes on in this community. It's a great honor to be a part of Bloomington.

I also want to thank Mr. Hal Turner who is here tonight representing Congressman Todd Young. I hope that this can be a civil, as it has been a civil and passionate discussion. I hope that at the earliest opportunity, indeed I would have hoped before this, that Congressman Young would be in this chamber as Congressman Hill often was on a Saturday morning, listening to the concerns of our citizens here.

As we've heard there is an extraordinary need and there are extraordinary efforts to deal with that extraordinary need. The tragedy is that we are taking the money from the people, but not from where the money is. The money is, as the previous speaker pointed out, in the military budget which gets sixty-percent of our discretionary federal spending. Second, even crediting the good intentions of those after 9-11 who felt an extraordinary effort was needed, we are now in our tenth year of war in Afghanistan. The New York Times reports that twenty-five billion dollars a year flow out of Afghanistan into off shore Swiss or Dubai bank accounts. When our people, as we are hearing tonight are made insecure we are weakening our national security.

The second things is the tax cuts for the wealthy have left the United States more unequal then it was at anytime since before the Great Depression in 1929. For those who believe that this is a recipe for getting out of a depression let us remember that we got out of the Great Depression not by giving further tax cuts to the wealthy, but on the contrary, through programs to improve the lives of all Americans. Finally, I would like to speak about Title X funding because it is a basic human right and I would hope that we will respect reproductive health of low income women. Thank you very much.

Erin Cooperman: Good evening my name is Erin Cooperman. I am a Bloomington resident and I am the director of AmeriCorps Improving Health throughout Indiana. My program is a state and national program but I would like to touch briefly on the other two branches of AmeriCorps.

The proposal is to defund the AmeriCorps program and all three branches of AmeriCorps do serve us here in Bloomington. So, that is why I wanted to mention the other two. As I stated mine is an AmeriCorps state and national program. They do direct service in many different focus areas. There is also the AmeriCorps VISTA program which stands for Volunteers in Service to America. They do capacity building activities, so they help programs become sustainable. Finally, there is AmeriCorps NCCC which is the National Civilian Conservation Corps. They do disaster response for example a couple of years ago when we had the flooding they came down and helped with that.

The way that my program works, just as an example, we offer twenty-one opportunities for people to serve. That makes us one of the smaller programs in Indiana. I should say also there are seventeen AmeriCorps state and national programs in Indiana. Four of those that serve Bloomington are the Indiana Campus Compact, which does after school tutoring, the HabiCorps which works with Habitat for Humanity, the Red Cross and Project ACEs which works with the Boys and Girls Club.

We are the only program located just in Bloomington; I think that is probably why I am the only director here tonight.

My program, as I said, only has twenty-one service opportunities which makes us smaller. We are a health promotion program, so if an organization would like to add health and wellness to the services they provide they apply to host one of our members and we place the member there. We have seventeen host site organizations those include: Stepping Stones, the Boys and Girls Club, Girls Inc., Volunteers in Medicine, Indiana Health, those are all the ones I can name off of the top of my head.

Primarily we do nutrition and physical activity promotion. That's because Indiana has an obesity rate right now of 28% putting us at the seventeenth highest obesity rate in the nation. Speaking in terms of cost, Indiana spends approximately 1.64 billion dollars each year on obesity related illnesses. That has a dispirit impact on the low income populations of our community. So we place members at organizations that serve low income communities to teach them about the tools to be healthy which will make them better citizens and make them more successful.

The last thing I would like to highlight is, when you talk about how much you get for your money, our members serve for a full year of service which is 1700 ours of service. We pay them \$11,800 a year to do that service. We also have half time members which do 900 hours of service for \$4000, which means we pay them \$4.44 an hour to do the service that they do. So to address this issue that is creating a great cost to our community we pay these members virtually nothing to do this service. Thank you.

Jada Barbry: Hi my name is Jada Barbry and I am here to show my support for Head Start and SCCAP.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, teach him how to fish and he will eat forever. Not only an Arrested Development song but also a Bible quote I believe.

Education, not only does Head Start provide all of this amazing educational help for early head start, zero to three, the main head start program which is preparation for kindergarten, they also have this support of learning environment as well as support for adult learning programs and information on how those families can get that. They also provide an amazing resource for the community and for the parents and the families that are involved. They are a hub for all the other social services that you've heard speak tonight. They are where people go to, to get that information to them. It's a direct line to the people who need those services. It also gives the families great access to not only to the teachers the administrative staff, but to things like home visits so they can make sure they are still on track. They also provide family events and student events where, not only is there a learning environment and a help of togetherness amongst families, but also its fun.

Some of these families don't get to go to a movie, don't get to just hangout because the parents are working so much and but not enough money is coming in. I know recently they just did a movie night and it was packed. Probably, those kids didn't get to go see *Despicable Me* in the theaters, but they got to participate in it at Head Start.

They provide early dedication services, previously spoken about; social, emotional, and physical disorders, early dedication for abuse and neglect, learning disorders. Things that we need to get to as soon as possible so for the rest of their life they can have the support for it. If you don't know about a problem how can you treat the problem? Head Start does a great job at looking into those things. It also does things as support basic needs, coats, shoes, food stuffs as well as at school they get three meals a day. That might be the only food that they get. Nutritional information, hygiene and health information and they address some of those concerns. There is safety and emergency information. One of the biggest things is that family support; childcare and education for working families that would normally not be able to afford that.

The last thing that I want to say is I am also a big fan of Boys and Girls Club. The Homebuyers Class which afforded me and my partner the ability to buy a house. We are college educated people

and are middle class, yet couldn't. Also I would like to say thank you to all of the social services in Bloomington, you rock.

Marsha McCarty: I'm Marsha McCarty. I am the agency director of Catholic Charities in Bloomington. Our primary service is mental health counseling and our mission is to provide that to anyone regardless of ability to pay. We are not funded by any of the funds that are going to be cut, but that doesn't mean we are not affected by them.

In fact, I want to speak to that ripple effect that these cuts will have on other agencies like ours. We want access to our most vulnerable residents so that they can have those services. We do that in two ways. One, by providing them on a sliding fee scale; sometimes giving those services away or at a very low fee for either people that have no insurance or have insurance that has such high deductibles or co-pays that they can't access their insurance. Another portion of our clients are on Medicaid and that covers about half of our cost.

But, another way we provide access is by going to where the clients are. We go to Head Start, we go to Stepping Stones, and we go to Martha's House. Coming to a counseling agency and making an appointment and being able to get into your car and get there on time is in some ways is a very middle class kind of thing to do. Not everyone can do that and not everyone can do that on a regular basis. We are very aware.

I am like the lady social worker I have been doing this for about 150 years and I have watched mental healthcare decline in a lot of ways because it's harder and harder to get the access and it's less and less funded by governmental supports. You do need the leverage, the person that talked about leverage is right and when the leverage is not there we can't provide the services.

The other way that we are affected and our clients are affected enormously is that you can't successful treat a family that is having behavioral problems with their kids, a couple having trouble in their marriage, a depressed person, a chronically mentally ill person, you can't do that effectively if they don't have adequate housing, if they are hungry, if they are scared, if they can't get the childcare they need. The idea that we would cut Head Start -- that one was unspeakable to me. The kids that we access by sending our clients to Head Start classrooms many of them we would never see otherwise and seeing that child is often that access into that home and these are the clients that need all of these services. If they are not in place the quality of our services will diminish enormously.

Julio Alonso: Good evening. My name is Julio Alonso I'm a resident of Monroe County and the executive director of the Hoosier Hills Food Bank. I actually don't want to focus too much on the direct loss of dollars to my particular agency, although I will tell you that the CDBG and EFSP cuts that are proposed could cost us as much as \$15,000. And the cuts to the CSFP program, which provides a monthly box of food to low income seniors, would reduce case loads for a program where there are already long waiting lists.

But, frankly I am more concerned about the larger unquantifiable result of these cumulative cuts. If people already on the margins lose assistance for anything from heating to childcare, and if food and fuel prices continue to increase the way they are expected to, the pantries and kitchens that we serve will see an increase in clients.

2010 was our fourth record year in a row and in my five years at the food bank our output has increased by 97% from 1.6 to 3.2 million pounds. We are committed to trying, but I don't know if we can do that for another year let alone multiple years. We only did it last year because federal commodities made up 42% of the food that we were able to receive. Many of us were also helped by the stimulus funding approved two years ago. Everybody knew that was a one time deal, but the fact remains that money is gone. And the increased number of clients that it was supposed to help us serve has not gone. Cuts beyond where we stood before that money came in will without a doubt cause an increase in human suffering.

I don't think we can delude ourselves about the need to get the federal budget brought under control. But as others have said tonight, the true explosion in federal spending comes largely from fighting two wars for nearly ten years. I fully support the concept that abruptly ending their funding would be precipitous and even maybe disastrous, but I also believe that the war on poverty deserves equal consideration. And quite frankly that's a war we are losing right now. Thank you for your time.

Shirley Stompner: Hello my name is Shirley Stompner and I am the director of Head Start here in Monroe County, South Central Community Action Head Start. I could actually speak for three hours not three minutes on Head Start but I could not speak as well as the families and the advocates have here tonight. I really want to thank them very much for their time and their words and the kind words and sharing what they did tonight.

So I am going to give you just a few statistics and let other people come. We serve 324 children: 267 of them are between the ages of three and five, 57 are in Early Head Start program which is accepting families up to the age of three. All of our families are at or below 100% of the poverty. To give you a reality check on that, virtual reality, real reality -- a family of two that's under \$14,710 and for a family of four \$22,350. So think about trying to live on that with your family of four or someplace in between with a family of three. 10% of the children that we serve are homeless, 16% have special needs. 90% of the children that are in our program currently and the other 10% will have all the medical screenings that they need -- vision, hearing, immunizations up to date, lead screenings, and all of those before they leave our program.

We currently have twenty classrooms in eleven sites around the community and the important thing I think I want to end with here is that we understand the need to serve our families within the community that they live. And the partnerships that we develop within our communities are paramount to being able to adequately server our families. I take that responsibility and the people at SCCAP and all the agencies here take the reasonability of a healthy development of children and families of all cultures in this community. I am really proud to be a part of the community by evidence of what is here tonight and the people that are speaking. I am really hopeful that the legislators that hear this and see this peace, take it seriously what their responsibility is and what their cuts will mean to families and children in the United States. Thank you for your time and thank you for all of you coming.

Katharine Byers: My name is Kathy Byers and I am a resident of Monroe County. I direct the undergraduate social work program at Indiana University but I am not here in that official capacity. I am here as a public citizen and also as someone who has the opportunity to live in this community for a number of years and work with many of the agencies.

We place many of our students in internships in the agencies and, believe me, there are no social service agencies in this community with fluff in their budgets. I don't think they ever had fluff but they certainly don't have fluff now. And so when we are talking about cuts these are very real, very dramatic, and in some cases devastating cuts that we are talking about. I have sort of a broad community perspective when I think about things. I think what we are doing right now is that, at the time of our greatest need, when people are suffering because of the economic crisis that was created by Wall Street and the housing industry et cetera, people who are not a part of creating those crisis are being asked to pay the price for that crisis.

We are trying to justify cutting social service programs and saying that is going to help the budget. If you play the little *balance the budget game* that is out there, New York Times I think posted it, when you start making cuts, the biggest cuts that you can make that make the biggest difference in the budget are not in social services. They are in the things people have mentioned -- the military. If there was a way to cut the national debt that would really help because we are paying a lot of interest on the national debt.

We are cutting families, and some of the families are going to be hit doubly if these cuts go through. There are Head Start moms that go to Futures, so not only are they going to lose childcare but they are not going to be able to get family planning services. Think about that and what that means for families. We are all interconnected in this community and so if moms who are participating in Circles and whose children are in Head Start get jobs that means I have to pay fewer taxes to support food stamps and other kinds of public assistance programs. So, let's fund the programs that help people get the jobs and become more productive as oppose to cutting those programs. Thank you.

Helen Kane: My name is Helen Kane and I am a Monroe County resident. This feels a little like déjà vu following Shirley Stumpner. Approximately twenty years ago we went to the State House to a similar forum requesting funding for disable citizens of our county. I am going to read a letter I wrote to the President because I am a single voice and putting your voices behind mine gives it much more impetus.

Dear President Obama,

As the cuts to our local Community Action Programs by your Congress directly affect my volunteering efforts, I need to share these feelings with you. Since I have had a full career in the social service sector I know the struggle to get and keep funding. It seems that most of the time of talented people trying to serve the poor, the elderly and the disabled is spent raising money to keep their programs running. What a waste of talent and I could say the same about politicians. Our priorities appear to be running amuck.

When you arrived at the White House with your wife Michelle you declared that we, as citizens of this great country, needed to get out there and volunteer and make a difference. I took this challenge to heart. In addition to volunteering for Hospice and delivering groceries from our local food bank I began to work with the Area Council On Aging spending time with a wonderful older woman who has giving as much to me as I have to her.

In the past year I have become involved in the Circles program a CAP funded program. In all my years of service this is by far the most valuable program I have seen in assisting people in poverty to lift themselves out of their situation with the support of just a few caring hearts. This program uses the energy and wisdom of the poor and the middle class to change the faces of our community. If you pass the budget cuts for CAP and Block Grants, all of these programs will cease to exist immediately, literally the Circles program will close on March 4th. That does not mean we will not carry on whatever volunteer efforts we can muster but the structure will be hard to keep strong. The local food bank will have to cut back. As you know they are already having trouble keeping up with the many new poor. Now CAP employees all over the country may be added to those ranks.

Again, I took to heart your plea to get involved and now it seems that you are reneging on your side of the agreement. I know it is hard to get things done in Washington, to be political. I thought you were the man who would take a stand for our less fortunate citizens. Being one of the liberal independents who voted for you and had great joy and hope with your election I can not in good conscious vote for a second term if these cuts are put into the budget.

Nick Romy: My name is Nick Romy I am a born and raised Bloomington citizen and proud of it. Most people know the difference between right and wrong, I do, and I know that this is wrong. I don't like to spout rhetoric but I may make an exception in this case because this needs to be said again and again. We've heard statistics all night and have heard specifics of exactly what will happen if this budget cut comes to pass. I refuse to accept this as an inevitability and I hope you feel the same way. Don't let Bloomington citizens in need, real people, be reduced to a dollar amount. Don't let innocent people pay for others mistakes. Thank you.

2:31:08 Sandberg: Seeing no line over here to the right we will continue on the left.

Angela Bowman: Hi I am Angela Bowman, I am my son's Head Start classroom representative and I am on the council of Involved Families representative for the South Central Community Action program. I must say it is really hard to speak after hearing everything that everyone has said because every little thing is what I wanted to say.

It's really shocking to think about the future of this country and the detrimental effect these budget cuts will have on people in all classes especially the lower classes. When I wrote my letter to Congress I couldn't help but mention the direct connection between the lack of education, poverty and crime. It's just a fact of life and also the direct connection between education and success in our society. So, one fact I want to bring up is how can we, one question I should say, how can we expect our children to succeed if we show them that education is not important at an early age? Why start this love of education now when you can just ignore it and let it go down the drain with everything else?

I feel really nervous and all shaky and my heart's pounding. It's just so sad to see this country believe that cutting educational opportunities for young children could actually be a solution for this temporary problem. I feel like spouting all of these quotes that you hear all the time, "*this is a permanent solution for a temporary problem*", and "*we are the people and the children are our future*," but these things are true. It is true. What can we do? How will our country be in fifty years from now if we teach our children now that education is not important and that the impoverished should just stay in the pit of poverty instead of clawing their ways out of these terrible dark places? It's really a dark scene in my mind to think of all of the things that will happen if these cuts go through. As someone else said the reproductive things, mothers who can't get birth control now they are reproducing more. Where do they send their children as they are looking for jobs? It's just a vicious cycle. Listen to all of us; we all have the same opinion.

Sandberg: Thank you. Strength in numbers. Thank you Ms. Bowman.

Vicki Pierce: Hi I am Vicki Pierce I am a Monroe County resident and director of Community Kitchen and my children are enrolled at United Ministries, my partner is employed there so I am surrounded on all sides by CDBG and the importance of it.

At the kitchen we too as everyone else has, have seen significant increases in the last couple of years. We set a record in 2009 by 21% and another record in 2010 by 14% serving over 211,000 meals to Monroe County residents. 60% of the people we serve are children.

Marsha talked about the ripple effect, Julio mentioned the compounding effect and I am going to throw out the trickle down effect just for fun. If we look at the hit to our agency and the complete loss of CDBG and EFSP would be maybe about \$20,000, not completely devastating to us..... the trickle down effect is that if the food bank has less money they have less food, which means we get less food from them, in turn we buy more food retail. So, we have less CDBG with which to pay the salaries of our staff and we are now outlaying more cash for retail food.

What that means for us is that we have to cut back in our youth serving programs. So, when we are providing after school meals to kids at Boys and Girls Club, Girls, Inc., Rhinos, those programs now, we have to cut some of what we are doing for them. Which means for them, they have to now go out and purchase food on their own for those children who are in programs until six or seven in the evening, which then limits what they can do in youth development programming on top of whatever hit they are already taking from the loss of CDBG. Nothing is new and as the previous woman said, everything worth saying I think has been said but from our perspective looking at it more across the board for what it means for us and our interconnectedness here in the community. Thank you.

Sandberg: Thank you Ms. Pierce. Seeing no other lines I will ask one more time if there is anyone here who wishes to make a public comment to wrap up this evenings listening portion of this Special Session. Anyone want to make a comment please?

Tim Felton: I am Tim Felton and I didn't have anything prepared, but my wife works for the Circles initiative and I just had two quick things, and it is nothing profound, but one is very positive. That is

getting to be here tonight and last week and especially tonight seeing families all here and interested in what's going on in our government and our nation and our world and the lives of everyone is this community is very exciting. And I think that is something we can all take hope in and look forward to. And I would just like to encourage everyone to get excited about that, because this is where we want kids running around, and this is where we want kids laughing and learning and taking part.

The second thing is on a very different note and I just desire to make a personal plea to, I am not addressing him personally, to Todd Young's representative just to ask him -- you have just a portion of the ear of our representative, just make a plea and say 'why are you going to turn your back on all of these people and how?'

I say this from the depths of my heart, I don't understand how you can turn away from all of these people that are in need and for what tax cuts for money spent else where? It doesn't make any sense and I know I have nothing profound to say but I just wanted to say that.

Susan Sandberg: Thank you Mr. Felton. Any additional public comment this evening? I see a hesitant stroll to the podium.

Christine Combs: I know I just am not good at pulling myself forward and speaking in public but since I know many of you, this can be our living room. My name is Christine Combs and I just wanted to say a couple of things. Everything that was said tonight was really good and I really appreciate the council letting us do this. Some smaller facts about people who are helped in social services for instance at Community Action where over 5,300 households were served in the last year. We have a budget or guideline that persons have to fall into before they can get services for many of the programs. As Shirley had said it's only 100% of poverty. Some of the other programs it's 150%. So, if you are a senior citizen or a disabled individual and you are relying on Social Security benefit you can't make more than just over \$16,000 for twelve months but I would say the average that we might see come through the doors would be just over \$8000 for a full twelve months. That comes down to about \$674 in a month and I don't know a lot of people that actually can live on that or even survive on that. Nobody is getting rich, none of our clients are and if they do it's because we have helped them achieve their dreams of moving out of poverty. I very much admire Colleen, because she like me doesn't like to speak in public, and in Circles in observing the families there it is the Circle leader that leads, it's what they want to achieve. I see Colleen finally making that step to get into college and doing what she really wants to do and it takes a lot of work and a lot of empowerment.

Sandberg: Thank you very much, for someone who doesn't like to speak you have reached the end of your time. Thank you anyone else from the public wish to make a comment?

Megan Hutchison: Hi I am Megan Hutchison and I work with social justice groups in the community that work to reduce incarceration. In the years of our research one of the things that we always found reduced incarceration in communities was the use of early childhood development programs. And by and large, children who participate in programs like Head Start do better in school and end up making more money, just being overall successful adults and staying out of the adult criminal justice system. For me, it's surprising that the Federal Government would take these steps to cut these funds when it's not just the short term temporary impact that it has on folks. It's this long term effect it has on communities and we are going to end up paying this down the line if we don't support them now. So thank you again for sending your letter off to our representatives in Washington.

Sandberg: Thank you Ms. Hutchison. Any other public comment this evening? I am seeing some movement. Alright I believe that must bring us to the end of tonight's listening session. I want to thank each and every one of you who have come this evening to present. We set up this Special

Session to truly be a listening session. I am not going to say anything more I think this information will all be digested at our next regular session for those of us on the council who feel the need to make a comment after we've had the chance to kind of digest everything we've heard. I think that would probably be the most appropriate time to hear from us. So at this time Mr. Sherman can you walk us through again what's before us in terms of a motion for concluding this evening's session?

Dan Sherman: Yes. According to our procedures there was going to be a motion at this point in the meeting with some brief questions to clarify the motion and then a vote and a conclusion to your activities. You'll find a copy of that wording of that motion on your procedure sheet, the second page. If you want I can read it or maybe Tim has it.

Tim Mayer: Is it the draft motion? I can do that. I move that the Council President Sandberg prepare a letter to be sent to Federal officials regarding the effect of the proposed reductions of local services. Prior to distributing the letter she will consult with Council members, the Mayor, and City Clerk regarding the manner and contents of this communication.

Susan Sandberg: It's been moved and seconded do we need any clarification or questions from council on the motion? And seeing none I will ask for a roll call vote from our clerk.

Regina Moore: Let's start with our Council member Rollo.

Dave Rollo: Yes

Regina Moore: Sturbaum.

Chris Sturbaum: Yes

Regina Moore: Ruff.

Andy Ruff: Yes

Regina Moore: Sandberg.

Susan Sandberg: Yes.

Regina Moore: Mayer.

Tim Mayer: Yes.

Regina Moore: Satterfield.

Mike Satterfield: Yes.

Regina Moore: Piedmont-Smith

Isabel Piedmont-Smith: Hell yes!

Regina Moore: Wisler

Brad Wisler: Yes

Regina Moore: Thank you.

Susan Sandberg: Alright that motion passes I will be drafting a letter again this record will be going along with all the written comments. I will urge you to continue to write and to speak and to talk to with one another and at this time do we have a motion to adjourn? All in favor? Thank you.

02/23/11

Please Print Full Name

Matthew Manfred Hoffmann

Anna Cecelia Peacock

SCOTT ALBEX

Marc Haggerty

Diana Kay Coolman

Sheri Benham

Johnny Smith

Lauren Hall

Key Bull

Shawna Meyer-Niedermaier

Beth Krouse

William A. Vance, Jr. NAACP

KRISTOFER BOWMAN

David Keppel

Jada Barbry

Julio Alonso

Katharine V. Byers

Nick Romy

Vicki Pierce

Wesley Hutchison

Christine Combs

02/23/11

Please Print Full Name

Michelle Hoover

Meri Penfold mcm

Jamie Andree Indiana Legal Services

TAWANA KING

Linda Patton

MARIANNE AURICH

Gracia Valliant

Colleen Moore

Jennifer Held Held Start vice-chair CIF

Toby Strout Middle Way House

Carrie Felton

ERIN COOPERMAN

Marska McCarty

Shirley Stumpner

Helen Kane

02/22/2011

Dear President Obama,

As the cuts to our local Community Action programs by your congress directly affect my volunteering efforts, I need to share these feelings with you. Since I have had a full career in the Social Service sector, I know the struggle to get and keep funding. It seems that most of the time of talented people trying to serve the poor, elderly and disabled is spent raising money to keep their programs running. What a waste of talent--and I could say the same about politicians. Our priorities appear to be running amuck.

When you arrived at the White House with your wife Michelle, you declared that we, as citizens of this great country, needed to get out there and volunteer and make a difference. I took this challenge to heart. In addition to volunteering for Hospice and delivering groceries from our local Food Bank, I began to work through the Area Council on Aging, spending time with a wonderful older woman, who has given as much to me as I have to her. In the past year, I have become involved in the Circles Program (Bridges Out of Poverty), a CAP-funded program. In all my years of service this is *by far* the most valuable program I have seen in assisting people in poverty to lift themselves out of their situation with the support of just a few caring hearts. This program uses the energy and wisdom of the poor and middle class to change the face of our community.

If you pass the budget cuts for CAP and Block Grants all these programs will cease to exist immediately. Literally, the Circles Program will *close* on March 4th. That does not mean we will not carry on with whatever volunteer efforts we can muster, but the structure will be hard to keep strong. The local Food Bank will have to cut back--as you know, they are already having trouble keeping up with the many new poor. Now CAP employees all over the country may be added to those ranks.

Again, I took to heart your plea to get involved, and now it seems that you are reneging on your side of the agreement. I know it is hard to get things done in Washington, to be political. I thought you were the man who would take a stand for our less fortunate citizens. Being one of the Liberal Independents who voted for you and had great joy and hope with your election, I cannot in good conscience vote for a second term if these cuts are put into the budget.

Sincerely and with Hope,


Helen Kane

8968 E State Road 45

Unionville, IN 47468

I am writing in regard to the drastic budget cuts proposed for various programs and services meant to help the neediest of our fellow citizens. Much of that assistance is funded by Community Development Block Grants. These are *absolutely essential* to the well-being and safety of children, seniors, people with disabilities and others unable to manage through no fault of their own. Hopefully, the push for these funding cuts arises from unfamiliarity with the daily realities that people are forced to endure when such programs are unavailable. For most of us, their challenges are unimaginable.

For instance, have you ever tried to sleep when you could see your breath in the air and frost on the floors and *inside* the window panes? Maybe the heating fuel had run out or been turned off, because there just wasn't enough money to pay for utilities *and* food *and* transportation. Or you were completely on your own and too tired or confused to figure out how to work the controls, or not strong enough to secure doors, windows and vents very well. Or maybe your landlord didn't do needed maintenance to keep your place weather-tight. We don't hear much about people freezing to death *inside* in Winter, but it *does* happen far too often every year!

What about having to find safe childcare for your preschoolers, when you were working a minimum-wage job as the sole support of your family? Could your elderly mom keep up with them and still take care of herself? Was your sister's boyfriend okay to be around them day in and day out through all their noisy activity? What did you do when you or they were *really* too sick for breakfast or baths or *anything*? Could their older sibling fill in for you? You couldn't stay home and be able to pay the rent, when there was no sick leave. There probably was no health insurance either. And how did you deal with all this on-going crisis and frustration without taking it out on the kids? Maybe you haven't been so constantly at your wits end, but anyone who lives or works with kids knows how hard and wearing the job of parenting can be, even without such tough circumstances.

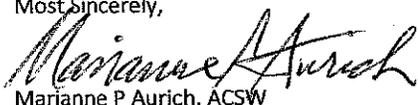
Perhaps you were a "latch-key kid" yourself, trying to find safe and interesting things to do while home alone after school. It was harder if you had to take care of younger siblings, cook meals or work a part-time job. Or maybe you couldn't get into the house or Shelter most days. And there were *lots* of temptations and decisions that were hard to sort out without some help. Mistakes could be scary, or even dangerous. Did you have someone to help you with homework? What did you do if you got hurt or lost or forgot your key? Could you call your folks at work? Believe it or not, at least half our school-aged children face these dilemmas most of the school year, and more over seasonal breaks.

Do you have any experience with parts of your body or mind not working properly, no matter how hard you tried? Have you ever had to get around in a wheelchair or without clear vision? Have you lost a job or relationship because you lost your ability to keep up after an accident or surgery? Have you or someone you know been embarrassed in public by having any of these or similar conditions? There are *very* tough emotional, physical, financial and social consequences to these sorts of situations. Many people block their recognition of such things even when they see them; they are painful even from the outside. But many of our neighbors are forced to cope with these difficulties, or worse, every day of their lives, some from childhood.

I *could* go on. I have known and cared for these very people, as well as many going through other hardships. Before retirement, I was a Masters-level Social Worker and Educator for close to 40 years in Health and Mental Health. I have worked on "front lines" and in administration in urban, suburban and rural settings, with all ages and many different ethnicities. And I have been through some of these tough treks myself. Now I give time to Retired Senior Volunteers (Elders' and Children's Programs), Habitat for Humanity, Hospice and Circles/Bridges Out of Poverty at my county's Community Action Program. I *know* whereof I speak, and even on Social Security income, I am still putting my money where my mouth is. I *expect* my government to do the same.

As a country, we pride ourselves on our religious and moral ethics. These days, we go so far as to recommend our values to other countries, when we feel they are not treating their citizens well. How *dare* we do that, when we are slashing the means of compassionate support for our own poor people? I urge you to do the right thing by continuing these programs. As well as quality of life, they are too often in fact a matter of life and death, for those less fortunate among us.

Most Sincerely,



Marianne P Aurich, ACSW

(BA-University of Bridgeport, CT '68//MSSW-Columbia University '84)

8940 E State Road 45, Unionville, Indiana 47468

To whom it may concern:

For the last three years I have worked at the Crestmont Boys and Girls Club and seen first hand the impact that club has on some of our community's most needy families.

- **52%** of Club families have an annual family income of less than \$5,000
- **92%** of BHA families have an annual income that is **only** 30% of the median family income; Considered by BHA as Extremely Low Income.
- **80 %** of our members are from single, female-head-of-family households.

Without a doubt our community's highest concentration of impoverished children are found within the Crestmont Community.....children who have **innocently** found themselves in these seemingly impossible situations.

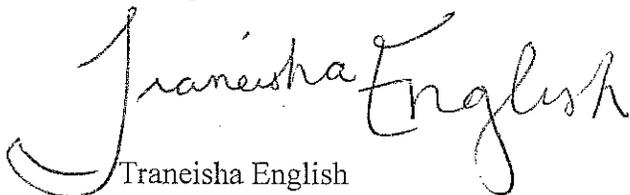
The Crestmont Boys and Girls Club provides the hope and opportunity these children so desperately deserve. Empowering youth to break the grasp of poverty, Club programming promotes growth in three primary areas: academic success, healthy lifestyle choices, and positive character and citizenship. Our Crestmont Club members benefit from these program qualities and results:

- **100%** of club members participate in Power Hour, a **daily** program that focuses on homework help, reading, and math.
- Our Torch Club program promotes volunteerism, community service and leadership in Crestmont's early adolescents.
- Members who completed our Mitch's Kids tutoring program on average improved their **reading scores by 89% and math scores by 73%.**

While these statics show the measurable impact that Club has on the community it is noting compared to the time and effort that each of our staff member and volunteers invest in each of our club members. Helping them to make good decisions, encouraging them to use their manners as well as other skills and values that will help them to become caring, responsible, and productive citizens in the community.

In closing, the Crestmont Club feeds, mentors, tutors, and protects its members. The program provides emergency and preventative service to this community's most vulnerable and yet most promising citizens. Without the Club's programming, these Crestmont youth face a most certain future riddled with devastating costs that are felt both personally and community-wide. Lack of educational attainment, teen pregnancy, hunger, disease, emotional disorders, crime, **and** abuse and neglect follow these children of poverty unless someone steps in to provide hope and opportunity.

Thank you for considering our funding proposal. On behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington, it is my sincerest hope that you join us, as together; we serve these youth through uncertain times.



Traneisha English
Crestmont Staff
AmeriCorps Member
Indiana University Studnet



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMINGTON

Dear whom It may concern,

I don't want you to take the Boys and Girls club away or take the money away. It so much fun and they help us with homework I like the people and they are nice and they care. Other reason why I don't want you to take it away or the money because some people don't have no where to go after school and they come to the Boys and Girls club. They got a lot of good stuff here and if you take it away then we can't come here and we will be bored out of your mind.

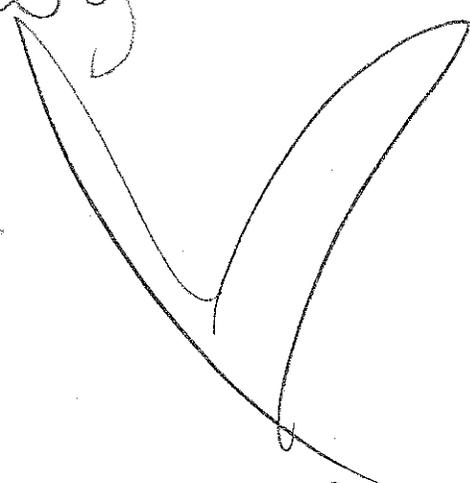
Sincerely,

makayla



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMINGTON

To whom it may
concern please
don't forget are
funding. We like
coming to the
boys and girls club.



Adriane



Traci



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMINGTON

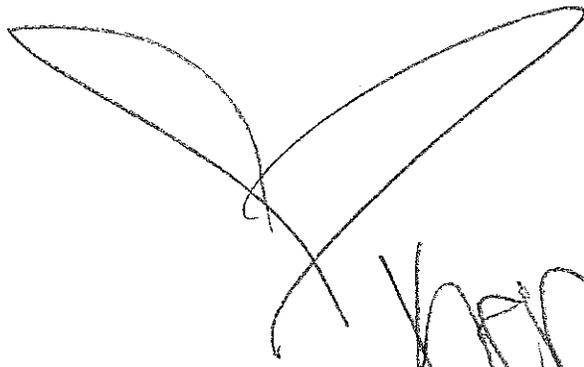
To whom it may concern
Please don't cut our funding
because I love to have
something to do after school!
We really thank you 😊
if you don't cut our funding!! 😊

Sincerely,
Rakia



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMINGTON

To whom it may
concern Please do
not close our founding
because we are like
coming to boys and
girls club thank you!



Kama
Woody





BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMINGTON

To whom it may concern
please don't cut our Funding
We ~~we~~ really like the boy
& girls club if you don't
cut our Funding we will
really appreciate if you don't
cut our funding

From  Khyre



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMINGTON

Feb. 23/2011

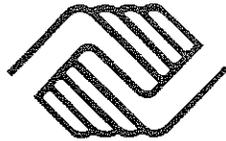
Dear City
Council,

My name is Jake Rogers
I am a member

of the club. PLEASE
do not shut down the club.
I love the club!

JAKE





BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMINGTON

Feb. 23, 2011

Dear City Council,

I am a volunteer at the Crestmont Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington. For the past two years, I have worked with many kids as well as staff/volunteers at the Club. There are many opportunities for the kids - ranging from the important Power Hour (during which they work on homework and can receive personalized help if needed) to various programming options, such as Club Technology to Art Club to Cooking Club. I have personally witnessed the lasting positive effects that the Club has on the kids. It would definitely be a loss if the Club were closed or its budget decreased. Please vote against the budget cut!

Sincerely,

Z. David Xia



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BLOOMINGTON

Please don't cut our funding down
we have so much fun here
we will be sad.

Dalayna



Monroe County United Ministries

Potential impacts of Continuing Resolution Reductions FY11

Federal Funds Total	403,000	We were anticipating up to 403,000 from 5 federal sources
CCDF Contract	Funded through the Child Care Development Block Grant via DHHS. Neither Indiana nor Monroe County reductions are unknown as of yet, nationally it is proposed that 39 million be reduced for FY 2011	
CCDF Voucher		
This grant brought 189 M in federal dollars to Indiana for FY 2010 and required a matching fund of 36 M. There has been no discussion or dissemination of information from the Bureau of Child Care about these reductions. MCUM served 60 children through this program in FY 2010, approximately 37% of our total enrollment received some of these funds. Every family must qualify by income with most families at MCUM showing income at the 30-50% of the area median income established by HUD. This program keeps parents working and attending school with the increased potential for greater earnings in the future.		
Child and Adult Care Food Program	Funded through the Department of Agriculture Domestic Food Programs and administered through Indiana Dept of Education. The actual reduction for Indiana or MCUM is unknown. Nationally, it is proposed that 9 million be reduced for FY 2011	
In FY 2010 Nationwide, 32 M PS and SA children were served through this program that places the greatest emphasis on low-income children. Nearly 78% of MCUM's children have incomes that qualify them for the "free" lunch. Interesting aside that this program was developed due to the poor physical condition of soldiers preparing to fight in WWII.		
EFSP	Funded through the Department of Homeland Security through the FEMA Administration. <u>CR reductions has this 100% eliminated.</u> <i>could be mistaken</i>	
These funds are given to nonprofit and faith based organizations at the local level to supplement emergency food and shelter programs. In FY 2010 12,000 organizations provided 35 million meals, 2.7 million nights lodging and 104, 531 mortgage rent payments and 113,411 utility bills. It is a primary means of preventing homelessness by helping to keep people in their homes. MCUM served 56 households in this prevention effort by offering \$12,327 in rent assistance and \$3,673 in utility assistance. Funds are limited to those who meet strict criteria for emergency aid. These funds provide 60-80% of the emergency financial aid available at MCUM. Their loss will be a significant blow to our community. There are virtually no overhead expenses on the local level to administer these funds. Every penny lost is at the expense of a needy individual in our country.		
CDBG-Social Service	We've heard projections of a reduction of 62% nationwide, but nothing is known for certain. Locally we heard that if the reduction is 20% or less a pro-rated amount based on the current recommendations will go forward. If the reduction is greater than 20%, the allocation process will be redone.	
These funds are provided to a wide variety of social services at the local community level.		

At MCUM, these funds have provided subsidy for children who live in the city limits and who meet strict income guidelines. In practicality, they are usually families that meet the criteria for CCDF, but there are no funds available for them to be in that program. Families can often wait a year or more for their opportunity to apply for CCDF.

There are reductions in other program areas that will affect MCUM, though not directly in our budget. We rely on TFAP commodities. It provides about 10% of the food available in our Emergency Services Pantry. Many of our families rely on WIC, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance), Energy Assistance through SCCAP, as well as the many agencies served through the Community Services Block Grant. These services weave a fabric which sustains those among us with the greatest needs. If these reductions come to fruition, there won't be a gap in the "safety net"; there will be no safety net.

As yet there are too many unknowns for our agency and Board of Directors to formulate a plan on how to cope with these potential reductions. We must wait for final allocations before making any plans or rush to implement any changes. MCUM has dedicated the last 72 years to making life better for the low income children and families in Bloomington and Monroe County and we intend to continue to meet this mission to the best of our ability.

In my humble opinion, this is not the right time to tighten these belts. Our agency has seen unprecedented numbers of people in need. For 25 years 1/3 of the persons seeking Emergency Services had never been in our office before. Since 2008, that number has increased to nearly 40%. More families are falling on dire times; this is the absolute wrong time to be withdrawing services.

Several times in recent years of economic recession, we've closed a classroom for 6 months or more in order to maintain a balanced budget. We may have to reduce our level of services, we could close classrooms, reduce staff, cut our costs to meet our budgetary limitations. However, this State has dedicated a significant expense and effort to move people from welfare to work. Many of these workers have very low skills and need assistance to be able to make this transition and maintain employment. Subsidized childcare is a necessity for low wage earners to be able to work. Good quality childcare is essential for the child's sake to grow and learn at their highest potential. These services are not inexpensive, but an investment at this age yields tremendous economic savings to the community later.

Emily Johnson <ebjohnson47@gmail.com> Wed, Feb 23, 2011 at 1:46 PM
To: Linda Patton <lmpatton14@gmail.com>

Dear City Council,

My name is Emily Johnson and I am a doctoral psychology student at the University of Indianapolis. As part of my internship, I have spent the past semester working as a youth program volunteer with the Monroe County Circles Initiative, which is funded by CSBG. My "job" with Circles is to plan the youth programming curriculum and volunteer with the kids every Thursday night. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this meeting, but it was important to me to express to all of you the importance of this programming in so many lives.

I cannot express to you how fortunate I feel to have worked with Circles even just for this short of a period of time. Every week, I forgo driving back to my home in Indianapolis to stay in Bloomington to work with the kids at Circles. Every week, I am treated as a member of the family in the Circles community as we eat a meal together, and families entrust me with the care of their children. Every week, I am inspired and blown away by the determination of the Circles families. Believe me when I say that Circles isn't like any other program that serves families in poverty. We as professionals are not serving these families-- we are partnering with them and in many ways they are serving us. The Circles leaders bring to the table what they want to get out of Circles. The Circles leaders are a group of incredible people who fly in the face of every stereotype we Americans hold about people in poverty-- I truly feel that people like this and programs like this are the key to breaking the poverty cycle.

Even so, I personally spend very little time with the Circles leaders themselves, rather, I spend my Thursday nights with their children. We play psychoeducational activities for the older kids and free play for the little ones, but more importantly we offer them a non-judgemental, enriching environment with dedicated volunteers. I have seen some of these kids make developmental strides through the youth program that they may not otherwise be able to make. Children who previously could not keep themselves from striking out at peers are now learning to share and take deep breaths before expressing their feelings with words. These are 3 year olds no less! Show me a three-year-old with impulse control and I'll show you a successful youth program. :)

As a young professional training to be a psychologist, I can tell you that children, regardless of their economic status, rarely get the honest, non-judgemental nurturing attention from non-family members that these kids get at Circles. In fact, programs like this just don't exist in the world. Kids live with perpetual conditions of worth, expectations, and electronics. At Circles, we offer them an emotional outlet and a place to grow and develop. These are the kids who are going to grow up to be our leaders, and I hope that they always have programs like this to turn to.

Last week, as per our regular group meeting, the kids went around the circle to say something "new and good" that had happened to them in the past week. One of the kids said, "My new is that I just met this new volunteer who is helping me with my math homework, andddd... my good is that she's really nice and I really like her."

There are so many more things I could say about what Circles means to me, how it has affected me as a professional and as a person, but I really think that says it best-- that's one of our kids saying what it means to her. And to me, that's the best reason of all to consider continuing to fund Circles. We're lucky enough to have only a 2% state budget shortfall this year, which is so small compared to other states. It would be, in my opinion, a moral failure to cut CSBG when we could set such an amazing example for other states and other communities.

Thank you for your time.
Emily Johnson

February 23, 2010

Ken Sparks
409 E Woodridge Dr.
Bloomington, IN 47408

Bloomington City Council Members;

I am a new ally, partnered with a person working their way out of poverty, in the Circles Initiative at South Central Community Action Program. I am very excited about building life long relationships and the prospect of actually helping people work themselves out of poverty. Over the years I have served on many boards and chaired many boards of organizations that help the needy in our community. I have never felt that we were actually teaching people how to fish but rather just giving out fish for the day.

Circles is a proven initiative that has a record of success in lifting people out of poverty to get an education and make an increased income that allows them to live independently in many cases for the first time in their lives. To think that our elected officials in Washington could believe that cutting the funding for organizations that provide Circles is in the best interest of our country leaves me shaking my head in disbelief. I believe the Circles Initiative is so good that it is bigger than the elected officials in Washington or even the organizations that run it. People like me as allies for these wonderful leaders are NOT going to let elected officials stop this from going forward.

I hope you will send a letter supporting our initiative and I hope you will go beyond that and come and visit our weekly circles meeting to see why this is so effective.

Thank you for considering sending a letter to Washington on our behalf.

Cordially,



Kenneth W. Sparks

February 23, 2011

Dear Bloomington City Council,

My name is Patience Caldwell. I'm a wife and mother and I have lived here in Bloomington for the last ten years. I have lived in a homeless shelter when I first moved here. Now I am living in a very nice three bedroom apartment. Two of my girls are going to The Project School. My husband works for small Bloomington business.

My husband and I got involved with Circles three years ago. We started as investigators that investigated what it meant to be poor. These means we took a real hard look all the different ways people are poor. I did not know how many different ways there are. It really opened my eyes. I have been poor most of my life and do not want my girls to go through what I have gone through. By being in Circles theses last three years it has opened doors for us.

As a family we got to give back to the community in many ways. We participated in fundraisers like the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids' Sake and Homeward Bound Walk to end homelessness. It felt great to give back to our community.

Circles also have helped my family work toward our goal to improve our health. We joined the Bloomington Wellness Challenge. In doing this my family has gotten healthier together. This helped my self-esteem which benefited our whole household.

I am on two different boards and spoken on Circles behalf in a national conference. My family was nominated for the Be More Awards last year. It made me feel like was a part of Bloomington's Community. When people feel like they are a part of a community make a better life for themselves.

Please do not cut funding for great initiatives like Circles!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patience R. Caldwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patience R. Caldwell

I think that SCEAP is a very unique program. Instead of simply giving money and handouts to the poor, the Circles group pairs low-income families with others who have made it out of situations like that. This kind of program encourages people to work to get out of their situation instead of doing nothing and receiving government handouts. I have seen how appreciative these families are first-hand and really respect what the program works to do.

JM Hammond
Jeff Hammond

To whom it may concern,

I feel that it is a grave injustice to cut funding from Community programs. The Circle's initiative as well as other programs help so many families out. My main concern goes to the South Central Community Action Programs they are paired with IU's Eigenmann Residential Hall. We all know the direct implications of such cuts, but think of the latent effects.

SCCAP has served as a bridge in linking IU students with members of the Elkhartston Community. Through many programs, a bond has been formed where it was void of a time.

These budget cuts have the potential to dismantle such organizations like SCCAP in this Elkhartston Community. I urge that you do whatever possible to make right of this wrong situation.

With a great heart,

Jarel Leshley
Eigmann non-profit Advisor



To Whom it may concern,

I had the pleasure of interacting with SCCAP on multiple occasions. The joy on the faces of the people who I was able to help was humbling. For Halloween this past Fall, Eigenmann Residence Hall hosted an event called "The Walk of Fang." Seeing all the kids dressed up in their Halloween costume really had a lasting impression on me as well as the residents on my floor. All the families involved were so appreciative of the work we put into the event, but I can personally say it was worth every second. For Christmas this past year, each floor in Eigenmann was given a family to support. My floor was given a mother with a young child to raise money to buy gifts for. On the form that the family filled out that included wants/needs for gifts, the mother wrote "don't spend anything on me, put everything towards my son." My floor & I really valued the mother's generosity. The two other occasions ~~where~~ ^{when} I work with SCCAP was helping serve and prepare food on Thursday night at a local church. The people who we served had to be so grateful for our time spent there. It made such an impact on residents in Eigenmann that ~~they~~ a group of 5-10 of them have gone back on several occasions to help. As a college student myself, I know the importance of getting away from "college life" and all the bad influences, stress, and business and help people in need. SCCAP is an excellent program that has made an impact on my year this year, & hopefully in the years to come.

Sincerely,
John Baute

To whom it may concern:

My name is Nancy and I am an RA in Eigenmann Hall at Indiana University. As a staff, Eigenmann has worked with the SCAAP program several times in this past year. Our biggest, most celebrated program is the 'Walk of Fang' event. For this event, we decorate Eigenmann for halloween and we have the families of SCAAP bring their children to trick-or-treat, paint pumpkins, participate in a costume contest, and many other fun activities. As a staff, we provide a safe place for these children to celebrate the traditions of Halloween. In addition to 'Walk of Fang' we have made dinner for the families, raised money to buy christmas presents for the children, made valentines with the children, and raised money for various needs. I feel blessed that I got to be part of the SCAAP community and help those in need. It is very apparent all that the SCAAP program does for their community. When the Eigenmann staff cooked

dinner for the families, we were told of one family
who's house caught fire and they lost most of their
belongings. This tragic occurrence is so devastating and
it was so wonderful to hear how the SCAPP
community was able to help this family. While this
is just one account of all that the SCAPP program does,
their efforts ~~are~~ do not go unnoticed. It is very apparent
how much the community does to help those in
need. It would be a sin to cut their budget because
they help so many with the limited resources they
have. If their budget gets cut they won't be able
to help nearly as many families. SCAPP makes
dreams and miracles come true. I've witnessed it.
Don't make cuts to their budget, they need it

Thank you,

Nancy Eastman



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Bloomington

To Whom it May Concern.

I would like to write in support of continued funding for social services programs in Bloomington. In particular, continued support for SCCAP programs. Through Eigenmann Residence Centers continued work with these programs over the past year and a half I have been able to see the impact that the hard work of the staff and programs has made not only on participants, but also our staff and Bloomington community members. I strongly encourage you to reevaluate cutting funding to these vital programs

Sincerely,

Kelly J. Hall

2-21-11

Bloomington City Council
Bloomington Indiana

Dear City Council members,
I am writing to address my concerns regarding budget cuts which may affect many of Bloomington's social service programs, including the Circles Initiative, which I am personally involved in. I would like to ask that you reconsider taking apart the Community Action Program and attempt to keep this working in my community. SCLAP helps me every day because I have embraced the guidance, care, and community which they offer. I am currently unemployed and seeking work, support, and strength. The people who are leaders in the Circles program have given me valuable information regarding resources, help me to develop career goals, and are kind, respectful, and very supportive. Please keep them in action! They are needed!

Blenda [Signature]

Dear Government Leaders,

Hello my name is Ross and I am a student at Indiana University. I am writing this letter to show my support for the South Central Community Action Program or SCCAP who will be losing their government funding as a result of the new budget that has been proposed. I just wanted to say that I have seen first hand the support SCCAP gives to underprivileged families in our area. I have worked with SCCAP and the families they reach out on multiple occasions and have seen the benefits it has to these families. They are active in teaching these families important skills and not just supplying them with the goods they need. This not only help the families physically they help them to be more independent and to have the confidence to face their challenges. Please don't let their funding

Ross

To Whom This May Concern,

Hello my name is Alicia Nieves and I am an undergraduate at Indiana University. I am also a resident assistant at the Eigenmann Residence Hall. I am writing on behalf of the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) to express my strong disapproval of the federally proposed budget cuts that would drastically cut support to this program. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to meet individuals who have contributed their time and effort to organize anti-poverty events and programs aimed at empowering the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our Bloomington community. My involvement with SCCAP goes beyond volunteering my time with the staff members. In my work with mothers and children who benefit from the program I have been able to see their gratitude and determination to improve their and their children's lives. And that is why SCAAP's model is so effective. It is not about giving a hand out to folks in need, but a hand up.

As a young student and voter eager to find solutions to the most pressing issues in my hometown, it saddens me to see such a model program is in danger of losing a large portion of its funding. Growing up in East Chicago, Indiana I saw the cycle of poverty that allowed my friends and neighbors to remain stagnant: dropping out of high school, becoming members of gangs, and living off of state assistance. From an early age I wondered which programs were most effect in lifting people out of lowest income levels. My question continues to follow me as I study at Indiana University. But, again, it saddens me to know that SCAAP, a program that I aspire for my own community in Northwest Indiana, is in danger of losing its opportunity to offer a promise to hard working people. That promise is not a guarantee that all of life needs will be provided, but that the most vulnerable have a fair shake at lifting themselves out of poverty. I encourage the members of the council to strongly consider what consequences await our community if we cannot provide this promise.

Sincerely,



Alicia Nieves

2-23-11

Hello,

I would like to tell you about my experience with the Circles initiative. I was invited to the final meeting of a group last year. I was surprised to see that the "graduates" were so appreciative and you could tell that their experience was definitely a life changing event.

Once they told their stories and explained what they have learned and how their lives had changed due to the support and caring through this program it was easy to see that these people were actually "saved". And it not only helped one person, the learning experience shifts down through their children and hopefully the next generations to come. The financial savings to the community starts with one, but the trickle-down effect should be even greater.

Let's continue helping people where it really counts, letting people maintain their dignity, instead of the band aid effect of welfare.

Sincerely,

Cook Incorporated

Marilyn Gooldy

Regulatory Affairs Specialist

P.O. Box 489

750 Daniels Way

Bloomington, IN 47402

Phone: 812-339-2235 ext. 2463

Toll Free: 800-346-2686

Fax: 812-332-0281

February 23, 2011

Kay Goodman

DO NOT CUT THE COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT!

My name is Kay Goodman and I've been involved with the Monroe County Circles® Initiative since March of 2009. After 19 weeks of training, I graduated and have the title of Circle Leader. I have 3 allies from the community. My allies volunteered for this program and so have the leaders.

When you live in poverty, it is very hard to network. When developing these intentional relationships you learn how to develop the language. Being able to communicate your ideas and educate yourself is a big part of overcoming poverty. I TRUST MY ALLIES!

I am a sophomore at Ivy Tech College. I was inducted my second semester into Phi Theta Kappa honor society and currently hold an officer position. My allies have been a big part of my success at college - teaching me how to write papers, and encouraging me to keep going. They listen to my ideas and, even when we don't agree; it is with a mutual respect. I don't have a car and when the snow and icy cold weather hit us in December, they rotated and took me to school, during finals week, so I didn't have to ride the bus. I have a lot of stories of support about my allies. My fellow Circle Leaders and Allies showed a great amount of support for me and my family, during the birth of my grandson, and while I was raising him.

The Monroe County Circles® Initiative is funded by CSBG dollars and losing this would have a very negative effect on the future of Circle's. There are 57 sites of circles in the U.S. and there are many stories like mine.

This is not a handout. This is a hand up! It is hard work and dedication, and I am looking forward to the future with hope. The legacy I want to leave for my children and grandchildren is this: It is never too late to better your life; it takes hard work, and never give up! PLEASE DO NOT CUT WHAT LITTLE HELP POOR PEOPLE HAVE, IT WOULD BE A STEP BACKWARDS NOT FORWARD!

February 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been involved with CIRCLES for almost two years. During that time I have witnessed individuals move through the process and make the move out of poverty. The focus of programs too often is just to help people get by. Opportunities such as CIRCLES (funded by CSBG) goes further than helping people get by, it helps individuals and families that want to improve their lives and move out of poverty. It is truly an example of the "hand up not a hand out". CIRCLES Leaders are committed and focused. CIRCLE Allies see the effort of being a friend and mentor pay off. The community benefits by individuals seeing their worth and understanding they are a significant part of the community. CIRCLES is a true benefit to all of the people and the limited funding used to support such activities is, in my opinion, very well spent.

Richard Rampley

2-23-11

Ms. Patton:

I have been to a ceremony for the Circle Initiative at the close of one of their groups' completion. I was so moved and amazed at the testimonies given by the participants. Cutting funding to this group would be a real loss to the community as they are helping the less fortunate gain life skills to be successful and contributing member of society. I appreciate the council supporting the opposition of these cuts to this very worthwhile program.

Respectfully,

Sandy Moore, Secretary

Indiana University

McNutt Residence Center

Bloomington, IN 47406

Statement from Michelle Hunsicker

This budget cut is going to affect me in several different ways. First of all, I am currently a Circle Leader in the Monroe County Circles Initiative. Before coming to Circles, I had no budget, I had no checking account and I had no family. I now have been working on my budget, I am in the IDA program, I have a checking account and I have an extended family who I love very much even though we started as strangers.

I am also now taking classes at Ivy Tech Community College in the Early Childhood Education program and I have attained a position with the Head Start program as a first step toward my career and cutting funding to Head Start will potentially affect my career in the long-run. Along that thought, I am wondering how these cuts will affect Head Start. I know that the meal that these children get is the only predictable, balanced meal that some of them will have on any given day.

I have worked in the landscaping business for years but I do not make enough money on unemployment during the off-season to pay my energy bill so I need the help that is offered by the Energy Assistance Program. If this program were not available, I, as a healthy 30-something year-old woman, could work multiple jobs but I would sacrifice time with my children and the stability that comes with that time, but what about the 80 year-old woman who is unable to work and the rest of the elderly who cannot make ends meet on their monthly income allotment.

Those of us in Circles are not lazy. I am trying to better myself so that I can provide a safe, stable, happy home for my children to grow up in.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle

Gracia Valliant
926 W. 4th Street
Bloomington, IN 47404

Senator Richard Lugar
1180 Market Tower
10 West Market Street, Suite 1650
Indianapolis, IN 46204

February 21, 2011

Dear Senator Lugar,

I am writing you regarding an issue of concern for me. They are cuts to Community Action programs.

Cuts to both Community Action programs and Community Development Block Grants will be devastating to the working poor in our community. CDBG allows working parents and those at one of the universities in Bloomington to enroll their children in daycare at an affordable cost. If the Republicans cut these grants at the level proposed by the President and greater, these parents may have to leave their jobs or school. It seems to me that the risk is that more people will need food stamps and other assistance they may not need now. There are so many programs these grants and Community Action Programs offer the working poor. There is one I want to tell you about. It is the Circles Initiative. In Monroe County is funded by the South Central Community Action Program. Circles is a unique way for the working poor to move out of poverty and into economic stability. Each Circle has a Leader, the person living at or below the poverty level and three allies. Allies are members of the community who have skills and training in the areas the Circle Leader identifies as barriers to moving out of poverty. Each Circle meets monthly to discuss how the Leader is doing with the priorities they have set. Sometimes they need more assistance. Others they just need to talk about what went well and what didn't in order to move on. My Circle Leader is almost finished with her teaching degree and works part time. Her husband has a full time job. Their children attend Head Start while their parents work and attend school. They need just a little while longer to make things work for them. My fear is that if the proposed cuts are made, Circles will dissolve. Again, it seems to me that this is short sighted. This program and others like it help the working poor reduce their need for social services and allows them to become tax paying members of society rather than using tax dollars for support. I urge you to find a way to meet some of these incredible people. Listen to their stories and see how Community Action Programs help them move out of poverty.

Again, I am cognizant of the fact that the deficit is out of control. Perhaps if members of Congress could actually work together to solve these big problems, there might be other solutions that don't so adversely affect the lives of those living at the edge.

Sincerely,

Gracia Valliant

What you do to the least of my brethren, you do unto me.

From: Mary Langley [mailto:mary.langley.qfch@statefarm.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 5:00 PM
To: Linda Patton
Subject: Circles

Dear City Council;

I read recently in the paper where funding could be decreased and if that happens then Circles initiative would no longer exist. When I came to one of the dinners for the people that are involved in Circles it was so obvious how much this program helps those who are less fortunate. It is these type of programs that helps people in our community to rise up out of poverty and enables them to become independent of Government programs in the future.

I was raised in poverty and my family was not fortunate to be involved in a program such as this that could have helped us to rise above what we were born into. I hope that a way is found to continue to fund this program as it is beneficial in so many ways. The parents that struggle to take care of their children, the children that feel like they have no hope because of the circumstances they are born into, and the community whose burden it is to help these individuals because they can't take care of themselves.

Let's hope that someone sees the need to continue to fund the Circles program so those individuals who struggle to cope with the circumstances that are out of their control may see hope for their future and their children's.

Best wishes,

Mary Langley

Mary Langley
Service Representative
Mike Weston Agency
(812) 336-4665
www.mikewestonagency.com

Look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others! Phil 2:4

WORKFORCE ONE

From: John Corcoran [mailto:corcoranjfc@msn.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 12:09 PM

To: Richard Rampley

Subject: Effect of WIA funding elimination

In the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding is eliminated, these are the probable effects in Region 8. The South Central Region 8 is comprised of Owen, Monroe, Brown, Greene, Daviess, Martin, Lawrence and Orange counties.

WorkOne offices in Owen, Brown, Daviess, Martin and Orange counties would close.

WorkOne offices in Monroe, Greene and Lawrence counties would lose approximately half of their staff. This would mean moving to smaller offices that would provide limited services.

The Greene County office might need to close.

24 Vincennes University Workforce Investment Act funded staff would be terminated.

Services to approximately 9,500 currently enrolled individuals would be eliminated. Generally these services are for individuals that are unemployed and seeking work or individuals that are unemployed and attending school to increase their skills and credentials so that they can obtain a job. Many of those attending school would have to find alternative funding for tuition, books and fees.

The WorkOne has limited funds available now to help those in training with transportation and living expenses that can not be paid by any other source. These funds would no longer be available.

John F. Corcoran
CLJ Associates, LLC
Region 8 Operator
2597 West Vernal Pike
Bloomington, IN 47404
Office 812-332-4496
FAX 812-323-3415
southcentral8.org

AMETHYST HOUSE

From: **Annie Cheek** <acheek@bloomington.in.us>

Date: Thu, Feb 24, 2011 at 12:46 PM

Subject: Federal Budget cuts

To: council@bloomington.in.gov

City Council,

I wanted to thank you for holding the listening session last night and allowing the residents of Monroe County to voice our concerns and opinions about the proposed budget cuts. I work for Amethyst House Addiction Services, which provides substance abuse treatment and access to recovery services in the community. Although my agency may not be immediately affected by these cuts, many of the agencies we refer our clients to will be affected. This summer the South Central CAP office weatherized the Amethyst Women's House, which is a halfway house for women recovering from substance abuse and gambling addictions. The weatherization project has caused substantial decreases in our heating/cooling bills and is something that we, as a small agency, could not have afforded to do on our own. Community Action Programs across the country provide incredible services to people in need. I cannot fathom the effect these cuts will have on people not only in our communities, but also around the country.

I hope that our efforts as a community will not go unnoticed. I urge our state and federal leaders to take the time to realize how these cuts will affect our communities. Without the services these agencies provide, many people will be without food, shelter, healthcare, and childcare. Programs that provide mentoring services will be closed.

Children will be left alone to take care of smaller children. Families will be unable to pay their heating bills. Women will not have access to needed reproductive health services, causing a rise in unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, ovarian and cervical cancers. I suspect we will see a rise in crime, incarceration, and domestic violence. Shelters and residential programs for homeless youth, families, and adults will be scarce. Are all of these problems worth these proposed budget cuts? Those of us in social services know that cutting our funding and decreasing access to services will cost society more money in the long run. I sincerely hope our leaders can understand this as well.

Thank You,

--

Annie Cheek
Amethyst House
Case Manager
Phone 812 3362666
Fax 812 3230144

HEAD START PARENT

From: **angela maanaki** <amaanaki@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Feb 23, 2011 at 11:52 PM

Subject: pending cuts

To: council@bloomington.in.gov

Greetings Council,

First I would like to give my apologies for not being able to attend this evening. I am interested in the details of this evening's meeting, if it is possible to share that with me I would be grateful.

It is with deep concern and utter dismay that I share with you my concerns for the city of Bloomington. Since I have been a resident of Bloomington in 2006, I have witnessed the generous, compassionate, hard working, and enduring spirit of a community. My family originally came here for my husband to pursue his doctoral degree. We have five children and according to federal guidelines, we live in poverty. I have received assistance through Head Start by receiving care and early education for my three sons. It has proven to be beneficial for a family financially, allowed me to return to college, and provided us with information and resources we might not otherwise have been privy to. I don't see how the city of Bloomington, can lower the amount of children allowed currently to attend. The university already seriously lacks enough affordable childcare, and have been slow to improve in that area. I believe that by somehow bridging the university (student body) or child development center you might be able to increase your numbers and voice on Washington and the state of Indiana. I deeply care for the community and I hope that something can be done for those who need it most. I also am concerned about the employees of the Head Start program, they are a vital component to the success of the future generation of Bloomington citizens. The workers at Head Start are not just employees, or babysitters. These are **caring**, knowledgeable individuals who do so much for the community.

Peace

Angela Maanaki

- Head Start Parent
- former council member 2010

AREA 10 AGENCY ON AGING

From: **Mary Boutain** <mboutain@area10agency.org>

Date: Thu, Feb 24, 2011 at 10:03 AM

Subject:

To: "council@bloomington.in.gov" <council@bloomington.in.gov>

My name is Mary Boutain and I work for Area 10 Agency on Aging. In 2010, the South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) office directed funds to our senior nutrition program.

With these funds we purchased meals for homebound individuals in our community and purchased food for our food pantry program that serves homebound individuals who make less than 150% of poverty with 2 supplemental bags of groceries each month in Owen and Monroe Counties. In addition, CDBG funds supported Rural Transit fares and monthly bus passes for people unable to pay for transportation.

Area 10 also operates the 211 information and referral line. 211 is answered 24 hours a day 7 days a week by trained professionals and provides free, confidential referrals to all community members in need of assistance. In 2010, 211 personnel received over 6500 calls and referrals were given to much needed programs such as energy assistance, affordable rental housing, weatherization, food pantries, Head Start and child care programs.

We see an ever growing need for assistance programs and now is not the time to be cutting services to people who have been suffering with the economic downturn and unemployment. We simply cannot balance this budget on the backs of the poor and those most vulnerable and I am grateful to the city council of Bloomington for being a leader and voice to Washington that we must protect and build the safety net of human services in this time of economic crisis and not cut these vital programs in our community.

Sincerely,

Mary Boutain

Mary Boutain, MPH
Nutrition Director
Area 10 Agency on Aging
630 W Edgewood Dr.
Ellettsville, IN 47429
(812) 876-3383 Ext.505

STONE BELT ARC, INC.

From: Leslie Green <lgreen@stonebelt.org>

To: sjsandbar@juno.com

Subject: City Council Meeting

Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2011 10:40:00 -0500

Hello Susan:

Thanks for providing the special session of the City Council meeting last evening. I was there as a show of support to my non-profits colleagues and the citizens they support. I found the commentaries both moving and disturbing. It really brings the issues home, which I believe was the intention of the Council.

As you know, we have been hit with cuts at the state level, and can anticipate there are more to come. A looming threat is how this Congress will deal with Medicaid -- the "ugly stepsister" of the entitlements. The protections for it will be much less than for those that entitle every American.

I'm hoping to have Todd Young come for a visit to Stone Belt as I'd really like to hear his position on services to individuals who would die if they weren't protected. We have already proven that warehousing people in large institutions is not only inhumane, but much more expensive. In the past, services to those with disabilities have often had support from both sides of the aisle. I wonder if we can still hope for this.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of the non-profit community, in general, and your interest in Stone Belt in specific. It is good to have you as a champion for your constituents with disabilities and the people that support them.

Best Regards,
Leslie

--

Leslie Green
CEO

Stone Belt Arc, Incorporated
2815 East Tenth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408
(812) 332-2168 ext 249
lgreen@stonebelt.org

From: **kthy550** <kthy550@bluemarble.net>

Date: Wed, Feb 23, 2011 at 6:16 PM

Subject: "Listening Session" From the Public on Pending Federal Cuts to Social Services Programming.

To: council@bloomington.in.gov

Cc: "Kathy @ work" <bus@insccap.org>, "Kathy @ Home" <kthy550@bluemarble.net>

Dear Council Members,

As you already know, the U.S. House of Representatives has voted to reduce the 2011 federal budget by \$60 billion. This includes billions of cuts to social services programs. Just some of the cuts to social service programs include: The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, Community Health Centers, Head Start, Maternal and Child Health Block Grants, Family Planning, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, Community Services Block Grant, HUD Community Development Fund, AmeriCorps, Legal Services and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

With the measure now being sent to the Senate for consideration, I am asking for your help in getting the message out to more individuals, groups and agencies that their help is needed in letting the policy makers know this is not acceptable. We can all help by sending a letter to our Members of Congress alerting them to the disaster this could cause and urging them to reconsider.

A proposed cut for Head Start alone could slash funding by nearly 23%. Nationwide, this would result in cutting more than 200,000 children from getting the opportunity to get ready for school and it would kill more than 50,000 Head Start jobs. It would cause families to lose jobs or make it extremely difficult for them to hold on to their jobs because of losing this preschool for their child. Locally, it could mean serving fewer children, cutting transportation and other services to our children, reducing centers, families being unable to find alternate child care which could cause them to lose jobs, and staff reductions.

The impact of all the various cuts to social service programs will devastate our community and communities across the country at a time when we are needed the most to help those less fortunate. How can we help them when these critical programs are being eliminated or reduced?

In this difficult time, more than ever, we need wise investment in social service programs, productive jobs and educational opportunities. Now more than ever, the country and our community cannot afford these types of cuts to those most in need. It undermines the future of our children, families and communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views and for your help.

Sincerely,
Kathy Potts
3710 S. Westmont Ave.

FUTURES FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

From: Liz <lizziemac@bluemarble.net>

Date: Wed, Feb 23, 2011 at 9:20 PM

Subject: Listening Session 2-23-2011

To: council@bloomington.in.gov

My name is Liz McGlothlin. I am one of the Nurse Practitioners at Futures Family Planning Clinic. I am currently in my 4th year at the clinic. I am very concerned about the possible outcome of the proposed changes to Title 10 funding that is being seriously considered in Washington, DC. I not only see patients for family planning, but have the responsibility of making sure that their other health concerns and psychological concerns are addressed and appropriate referrals made for follow-up care. Sometimes I am the ***only*** health care provider these patients have seen in years, and it is my job to make sure that they are given all of the information on the available services in the Bloomington community. The loss or serious cutback in Title 10 services in our community will create unnecessary hardships for those persons who do not have affordable health care not only for their reproductive health but for their overall health and increase the financial strain that this community will experience trying to accommodate their basic needs.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Liz McGlothlin, Family Nurse Practitioner
Futures Family Health Clinic
Monroe County Health Department

**SLIDING FEE SCALE
FUTURES FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC
MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA**

**Poverty Guidelines
TITLE X
IFHC Percent of Poverty
Sliding Fee Scale
Effective January 20, 2011
ANNUAL INCOME**

Family Size	Less Than or Equal to 100%	101% to 150%	151% to 200%	201% to 250%	251% and above
1	\$0-\$10,890	\$10,999-\$16,335	\$16,444-\$21,780	\$21,889-\$27,225	\$27,334+
2	\$0-\$14,710	\$14,857-\$22,065	\$22,212-\$29,420	\$29,567-\$36,775	\$36,922+
3	\$0-\$18,530	\$18,715-\$27,795	\$27,980-\$37,060	\$37,245-\$46,325	\$46,510+
4	\$0-\$22,350	\$22,574-\$33,525	\$33,749-\$44,700	\$44,924-\$55,875	\$56,099+
5	\$0-\$26,170	\$26,432-\$39,255	\$39,517-\$52,340	\$52,602-\$65,425	\$65,687+
6	\$0-\$29,990	\$30,290-\$44,985	\$45,285-\$59,980	\$60,280-\$74,975	\$75,275+
7	\$0-\$33,810	\$34,148-\$50,715	\$51,053-\$67,620	\$67,958-\$84,525	\$84,863+
8	\$0-\$37,630	\$38,006-\$56,445	\$56,821-\$75,260	\$75,636-\$94,075	\$94,451+
9	\$0-\$41,450	\$41,865-\$62,175	\$62,590-\$82,900	\$83,315-\$103,625	\$104,040+
10	\$0-\$45,270	\$45,723-\$67,905	\$68,358-\$90,540	\$90,993-\$113,175	\$113,628+
For Each Additional Family Member	\$3,820	\$5,730	\$7,640	\$9,550	\$9,588
% to Charge	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%

Services cannot be denied based upon income or the inability to pay

From: **Guy Loftman** <guy@loftmanlaw.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 23, 2011 at 4:02 PM
Subject: Federal cuts to social service programming
To: council@bloomington.in.gov, Guy Loftman <guy@loftmanlaw.com>

Dear Ms. Sandberg:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonight's Bloomington City Council listening session. Nonetheless, I would like to make my views known.

The Republican's assault on the poor is hypocritically called an effort to rein in spending. If spending was their real concern they would cut the real discretionary budget busters: defense and corporate welfare.

We must stand together to prevent slashing marginal expenses that help our neediest, from heating assistance and Head Start to public radio and television. Thank you for your efforts toward that end.

Respectfully yours,

Guy R. Loftman

Bloomington, Indiana

--

Guy R. Loftman
Attorney at Law
Atty # 8877-53
532 N. Walnut Street, Suite A
Bloomington, IN 47404-3810
(812) 339-4899 phone
(812) 339-4055 fax
www.LoftmanLaw.com

WTIU

From: **Witzke, Scott C** <scwitzke@indiana.edu>

Date: Wed, Feb 23, 2011 at 1:55 PM

Subject: WTIU and CPB Cuts - For Wednesday General Meeting

WTIU Public Television is unavailable to make the special City Council session this evening but wanted to make the following statement:

Our government spends \$430 million a year on public broadcasting—that's \$1.40 per person per year for **both** public TV and radio. As a point of comparison, our government spends \$500 million each year for military bands.

The passing of H.R. 1, which eliminates federal funding for public broadcasting, is a significant blow to WTIU and all of the NPR and PBS stations, not to mention the 170 million Americans who use public broadcasting every month.

"If this House-passed bill stands, it would endanger hundreds of public radio and television stations that serve as educational, informational and cultural lifelines for millions of people nationwide, and it would be a death sentence for stations serving rural and small-town America," said Public Media Association president Patrick Butler.

Cuts to public broadcasting will have a great impact on the future of America—our children.

- Children who watched Sesame Street in pre-school spend more time reading for fun in high school and obtain higher grades in English, Math, and Science.
- Kids who played the Martha Speaks app increased their vocabulary as much as 31% in two weeks
- PBS is the #1 source of media content for pre-school teachers.

Friends of WTIU have already had a powerful impact in Washington. Hundreds of thousands of calls and emails in support of public broadcasting have created momentum that may yet save federal funding for this vital public service. We heard directly from Congressional offices that the phones were ringing off the hook – one office reported more than 1,000 calls in support of public broadcasting in a single day. These calls will make a big difference when the House considers the compromise bill coming out of conference committee.

What can you do today? Please reach out to your friends and family and encourage them to sign up at 170MillionAmericans.org and at [Facebook.com/170Million](https://www.facebook.com/170Million) over the coming week.

170 Million Americans for Public Broadcasting is a collaboration of public radio and television stations, national organizations, producers and our viewers and listeners throughout the country in favor of a strong public media in the United States. This project receives no government funding.

Attached are two infographics that demonstrate why public broadcasting is so important. I hope that you will take some time to look over them. Rick Steves, host of various travel shows on public broadcasting, wrote an informative article in USA Today last week as well.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/forum/2011-02-17-column17_ST1_N.htm

--

Scott Witzke

Director of Marketing & External Relations

WTIU – Television from Indiana University

812-855-5068

HOOSIER HILLS FOOD BANK

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Julio Alonso** <julio@hhfoodbank.org>

Date: Tue, Feb 22, 2011 at 3:08 PM

Subject: RE: Wednesday Meeting

To: City Council <council@bloomington.in.gov>

I'll try to summarize for you in case I don't make it or don't wind up speaking...

These comments are based on what I have been told the House-passed FY2011 continuing resolution contains.

The proposed cuts in CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding would translate to a loss of over \$10,000 in direct funding for HHFB.

The proposed cuts to the CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) would reduce caseloads but I'm not yet sure by how much for us specifically. Although this program doesn't operate in Monroe County, we do serve 530 low-income senior citizens in Orange, Crawford and Washington counties. These seniors receive a monthly 40 pound box of food and there are waiting lists in all three counties.

While it would not impact us now, last year we received a \$112,199 grant through the TEFAP (the Emergency Food Assistance Program) Infrastructure Grant program. We purchased a new truck which is currently being built for us. This grant program is eliminated under the House proposal.

There may be other impacts that are currently intangible. If all the cuts go through, there may be clients that are then driven to access the emergency food assistance network, increasing the need for food. The agencies we serve could be forced to end programs and/or serve more clients which would impact the amount of food that they need from us.