

As you are aware, the weak economy has caused tremendous job losses and increased long-term unemployment, especially among single moms. The unemployment rate among low-income single mothers increased from 9.8 percent in 2000 to 12.3 percent in 2002, a faster rate than the national unemployment rate. However, instead of showing compassion for the single mothers who are struggling to provide for their families, you have waged a continuing campaign against their interests.

For example, during the difficult economy over the last few years, you have supported raising the work-hour requirement under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to 40 hours for thousands of mothers supporting families, even though few new jobs have been created. At the same time, you oppose sufficient childcare funding. Instead, last year you advocated a paltry \$1 billion increase - \$10 billion short of what the states would actually need. Moreover, you support an unproven \$1.5 billion marriage promotion scheme at the expense of safety-net programs that are already significantly under-funded. In addition, you advocate weakening programs critical to single mothers through your positions on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), and other initiatives.

As Members of Congress who admire the strength and hard work that single mothers devote everyday to supporting and caring for their families - including providing their families with structure and stability - we remain deeply committed to supporting single mothers and their families within our country. Studies have shown that families fare better when single mothers succeed in securing steady work, healthcare, decent wages, childcare and other vital supports.

We hope that you will reconsider your views on single mothers and your positions on federal programs that would help them.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter **Hilda L. Solis**
Tammy Baldwin **Corinne Brown**
Linda Sanchez **Barbara Lee**
Marcy Kaptur **Diana DeGette**
Carolyn Maloney **Rosa DeLauro**
Maxine Waters **Jan Schakowsky**
Stephanie Tubbs Jones **Zoe Lofgren**
Lucille Roybal-Allard