



**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE
The U.S. Conference of Mayors
77th Annual Meeting**

June 12-16, 2009
Providence, RI

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STRENGTHENING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, as of April 2009, the unemployment rate was 8.9 percent – the highest it has been in a quarter century – and almost double the 4.9 percent rate prior to the onset of the recession; and

WHEREAS, now in its seventeenth month, the current recession is already significantly longer than the two previous recessions the nation experienced in 1990-91 and 2001; and

WHEREAS, the current recession is the longest since the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA), the law creating the nation's largest program for providing skills training, was due for reauthorization in 2003; and

WHEREAS, reauthorization of WIA is crucial to meet the growing needs of the American worker – both those who have lost their jobs and those whose skills need to be upgraded to meet the increasing demands of the economy; and

WHEREAS, WIA is critical to fueling the economic development of our nation's cities; enabling local workforce areas to provide job training to workers while they are laid off, as well as continue to meet the demand of local businesses for a skilled workforce while the struggling economy recovers; and

WHEREAS, according to the Employment and Training Administration's Workforce Investment Act Non-Experimental Net Impact Evaluation jobseekers enrolled as WIA adult customers earn roughly \$400 to \$600 more per quarter than their peers for up to four years after enrollment; and

WHEREAS, WIA's current funding for the Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth funding streams is \$3.25 billion, a 26 percent decrease in funding since the legislation was enacted; and

WHEREAS, as the unemployment rate continues to rise, demand for WIA services will continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, Congress has acknowledged the importance of investing in job training in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), which allocated nearly \$4 billion for job training

through formula grants for Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth training programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to strengthen the Workforce Investment Act by significantly increasing its funding to \$8.35 billion, which is consistent with maintaining current funding for WIA programs at 2000 levels (adjusted for inflation), sustaining the levels included in ARRA, and ensuring a continued strong Summer Youth program to address the crisis in youth employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to strengthen the Workforce Investment Act by:

- Improving regional and private-sector coordination, and expanding outreach to immigrants;
- Providing incentives for public-private partnerships in workforce development;
- Providing additional training and apprenticeship programs which prepare workers for jobs in the building trades;
- Enlisting regional employers as partners having a vested interest in the success of workforce development programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on business leaders to:

- Invest in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high school students;
- Encourage employees (especially within large businesses) to participate in workforce development programs available in high schools, particularly those with lower college placement rates;
- Work with educators and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is responsive to regional workforce trends;
- Collaborate with state education and workforce leaders to identify key regional job trends;
- Support federal and state standards-based education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to ensure a significant reinvestment in all youth entering the labor force, including those young people with low educational attainment and poor connections to work, Congress should strengthen the Workforce Investment Act by including an enhanced Summer Jobs Initiative

to bring immediate and long-term benefits to teen workers, their communities and the business sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that public workforce development resources are accessible to all workers in need of assistance—including adults and youth who have been subject to decreasing investments by the Department of Labor, as well as low-income workers, whose access to Pell grants has been restricted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to ensure that strong local authority and flexibility for local elected officials and their Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) remain at the core of the reauthorization of WIA, so that the system will allow for development of programs that are informed by in-depth knowledge of the local business community, hiring and training needs of local and regional businesses, and the promotion of greater accountability as policies are designed to reflect local trends.

COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, mayors from cities across the nation met in Los Angeles September 23 and 24 to develop an action agenda on poverty to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles meeting culminated two years of work by the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity on this national action agenda on poverty; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- A large segment of the population in local communities is not prepared to meet the rapidly changing demands of the 21st century workplace, due to inadequate education, low skill levels and other barriers of poverty; and
- Eleven million Americans are unable to read a bus schedule or fill out a job application; and
- The largest growing segment of our youth labor force is largely minority and immigrant youth, and they are largely located in metro regions with high concentrations of poverty; and
- The nation's growing unemployment rate is a reflection of a deeply distressed economy in which job opportunities are dwindling amid continuing turmoil in the housing, credit, and financial sectors; and
- In this new era of global competition, America's economic health depends on the availability of a skilled workforce with the knowledge and ability to adapt to an ever-changing economy; and
- A sustained commitment to local workforce development programs that produce measurable results is crucial to ensuring our continued competitiveness in the 21st century global economy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the actions called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Poverty:

- Timely reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and full funding of its programs to ensure a significant investment in lifelong learning for every American is needed; and
- The workforce system should partner with education agencies to implement multiple pathways to the world of work and careers in high school, so that we can prepare students for first jobs in high-skill, high-wage careers, and increase their opportunities for further education; and

- A new summer youth employment initiative that provides program funding directly to cities and urban counties should be developed. Well-organized summer jobs programs bring both immediate and long-term benefits to teen workers, their communities and the business sector.

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S YOUTH

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to promoting the well-being and positive development of the nation's young people; and

WHEREAS, mayors know how early work experience and educational enrichment opportunities lead to academic improvement for millions of at-risk youth, and youth who work are more apt to stay in school, finish high school, and pursue post-secondary education and/or vocational training; and

WHEREAS, the labor market for the nation's teens has deteriorated considerably since 2000, when 45% of U.S. teens had summer jobs, to the historic low of only 32.7% in the summer of 2008; and

WHEREAS, matching the youth unemployment crisis is the nation's troubling dropout or poor graduation rate: only about half (53%) of all young people in the nation's 50 largest cities are graduating from high school on time; nationwide one in three high school students fail to graduate with a diploma and nearly fifty percent (50%) of African-American and Hispanic youth are not completing high school on time; and

WHEREAS, by 2010 the largest segment of the nation's labor force will be teens and young adults as 41 million new workers enter the workforce begin to replace 76 million retiring workers; and

WHEREAS, millions of young people are being left behind, disconnected from school and the world of work, and unable to participate in the U.S. and global economy; and

WHEREAS, only a significant sustained reinvestment in all youth, but most especially young people with low educational attainment and poor connections to work, will reconnect them to the economic mainstream; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) provides the nation's only comprehensive youth system to improve the education and training prospects for at-risk in-school and out-of-school youth; and

WHEREAS, WIA was up for renewal in 2003, but reauthorization has stalled in Congress; and

WHEREAS, at-risk youth have been severely underserved since 2000 with the elimination of a separate funding stream for a summer jobs program; and

WHEREAS, a well-organized federally-funded stand-alone summer jobs program brings immediate and long-term benefits to teen workers, their local communities, and the business sector; and

WHEREAS, developing skills to be productive workers, learning about various industries, and participating in the adult world of work are all important aspects of cultivating the next generation of workers; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor's WIA Youth Opportunity Grants represented a major commitment to addressing these conditions and increasing the long-term employability of youth living in the poorest communities in our country; and

WHEREAS, the authorization for the Youth Opportunity Grants ended in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration made a major investment in youth through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with a one-time \$1.2 billion appropriation for WIA youth activities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to make a sustained major investment in our nation's youth to address the unmet needs of youth who have been adversely affected since 2000 and particularly during this economic downturn; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this regular investment provides funding for a new stand-alone non-means tested Summer Jobs initiative to generate summer jobs and learning opportunities for at-risk youth who are in-school and out-of-school which includes:

- Promoting career exploration across a variety of industries and fields helping young people learn more about their interests, aptitudes and the ways these can be applied in the local labor market; and
- Providing internships allowing students to combine academic and employment pursuits; and
- Encouraging summer work experiences that include education and training in areas of financial literacy, work-readiness, post-secondary education, career exploration and health awareness; and

- Developing connections to local school curricula so lessons learned at work relate to academics; and
- Developing training for youth supervisors; and
- Ensuring summer work experiences are appropriate, fulfilling and lead to jobs of the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in WIA reauthorization legislation, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to:

- Maintain separate authorizations and appropriations for all WIA employment and training formula program; and
- Continue its commitment to a strong Summer Jobs program, by providing \$3.84 billion in funding in FY2010 appropriations legislation for summer and year round youth activities which is equivalent to FY2000 funding levels (adjusted for inflation), sustaining the levels included in ARRA and answering Senator Kennedy's call for an additional \$2 billion in youth funding; and
- Add youth joblessness as a criterion for determining the funding formula for youth activities; and
- Provide flexibility to local areas to allow for a wide range of programs and strategies, including summer jobs,
- Provide training and apprenticeship programs that prepare young people for jobs in a green economy; and
- Authorize and provide separate appropriation for a stand-alone summer jobs program; and
- Retain services to both in-school and out-of-school youth,
- Preserve in-school youth programs and in-school services for 14 and 15 year olds; and
- Maintain the focus on youth development; and
- Ensure that any new targeted grant program for youth be available for both in-school and out-of-school youth, particularly those in high poverty communities and that it must be funded only in excess of the \$1 billion dedicated for the youth formula program; and
- Raise the age for eligibility of services under the WIA youth formula program to 24; and
- Streamline the eligibility determination process and expand income and group eligibility requirements so that youth who already qualify for other federal programs may also qualify for WIA; and
- Amend accountability and performance measures that would provide incentives for programs to serve young people with low academic or basic skills and allow for longer periods of program participation and services that will lead to greater successful outcomes; and
- Maintain local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) and local Youth Councils (YC); and

- Protect local control and flexibility for the local WIBs and YCs to develop and implement their comprehensive local plan to address the workforce development needs of the local area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any authorization and appropriation for new programs not be made at the expense of the current formula grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any change in the youth formula allocation and any formula for new programs like the Youth Challenge Grants be substantially weighted to reflect the population to which the funds are targeted, such as high school drop outs, court-involved youth, and youth aging out of foster care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to incorporate lessons learned from the Youth Opportunity (YO) Grant program into WIA reauthorization and incorporate the YO philosophy of long term, comprehensive support focused on youth development into all youth workforce policies and programs.

**SUPPORT THE YOUTH PRISON REDUCTION THROUGH OPPORTUNITIES,
MENTORING, INTERVENTION, SUPPORT AND EDUCATION ACT
(YOUTH PROMISE ACT)**

WHEREAS, The U. S. Conference of Mayors is committed to ensuring that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free and law-abiding lives; and

WHEREAS, gang crime has taken a toll on a number of urban communities, and senseless acts of gang-related violence have imposed economic, social and human costs; and

WHEREAS, the use of a wide range of evidence-based and promising programs, offered under the auspices of a broad-based and informed collaborative of social services, schools and education programs, health and mental health organizations, Boys and Girls Clubs, law enforcement, faith-based organizations and other public and private entities working with at-risk youth in a community, has been demonstrated to prevent and reduce youth violence, delinquency and crime and keep communities safer; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice costs have become overwhelming in many communities throughout the United States, preventing necessary investments in educational, economic development, social, child and family development, mental health, and related services; and

WHEREAS, the investment in evidence-based and promising prevention and intervention programs for children and youth, including quality early childhood programs, comprehensive education programs including school, summer school, and after school and summer recreational programs, mentoring, health and mental health, substance abuse prevention and treatment, job training and other prevention and intervention programs, has been shown to lead to decreased youth arrests, decreased delinquency, lower recidivism, and greater financial savings from an educational, economic, social and criminal justice perspective; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based and promising prevention and intervention practices have been proven to build individual, family and community strength and resiliency; and

WHEREAS, investment in youth and communities holds the promise of making U.S. cities safer and stronger economically, environmentally and socially; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act establishes a PROMISE Advisory Council to assist the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in:

- Assessing and developing standards and evidence-based and promising practices to prevent juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity; and
- Collecting data in designated geographic areas to assess the needs and existing resources to prevent and address juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act authorizes grants for local governments in cities throughout this country to:

- Plan, assess and implement plans for evidenced-based and promising programs to prevent and intervene in juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activities to redirect involved youth; and
- Hire and train law enforcement officers as youth-oriented police to work in collaboration with local PROMISE Coordinating Councils, community-based organizations and youth at risk of or involved in delinquency or criminal street gang activity; and
- Create and expand juvenile witness and victim protection programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the adoption of this resolution, the United States Conference of Mayors affirms its support for the Youth PROMISE Act and calls upon the United States Congress to enact the Youth PROMISE Act in the 111th Congress.

**SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN JOBS THROUGH
GREEN JOBS TRAINING**

WHEREAS, "green building" and other sustainable practices will support growth in all sectors of our economy; and

WHEREAS, Congress has funded at least nine programs totaling \$25.5 billion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in which energy efficiency, public building retrofit, renewable energy, weatherization, upgrades to the electrical grid and green workforce development play an essential role; and

WHEREAS, Congress has included \$20 billion in tax incentives to encourage conservation and support development of wind, solar and other renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, Congress is currently considering several bills to limit carbon emissions, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering regulating carbon emissions using its existing authority, causing the relative value of energy efficiency and renewably-generated electricity to increase; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-eight states have already instituted portfolio standards, another five have established renewable energy goals, and Congress is considering creating a nationwide renewable energy standard, which would produce further development of clean energy resources; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) has passed several resolutions calling on all levels of government to pursue environmentally sustainable municipal practices; and

WHEREAS, one of the most essential elements of a "green" economy will involve increasing the production of energy from sustainable sources and retrofitting existing buildings to be more energy efficient; and

WHEREAS, the promotion of energy policies based on energy efficiency and on renewable sources will not only help our economy, but will do so in a healthy and clean way, saving our cities billions in ancillary costs such as health care, infrastructure decay, climate change mitigation and waste management; and

WHEREAS, green jobs and sustainable methods of producing energy make-up an increasing percentage of the economy; and

WHEREAS, the extensive federal investment in the green sector will require a skilled green workforce to support the quickly growing green economy; and

WHEREAS, a leading cause for increased recidivism, poverty and crime is a lack of jobs that pay a livable wage,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to fund the \$125 million authorized for Green Jobs Training programs passed in the Green Jobs Act for FY 2009 as stated in H.R. 1781; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the U.S. Congress to allocate additional funding for the development of new green businesses and workforce development programs for the new energy economy in further climate change, energy and workforce development legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any funding allocated to green jobs training should build on the current workforce development structure established in the Workforce Investment Act and give priority to programs aimed at training dislocated workers, minority and at-risk youth, and ex-offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the USCM calls upon the federal government to 1) expand labor market data collection systems and analysis to track and predict the demand for Green Jobs throughout the green sector to allow workforce development entities to train workers in fields where they are found to be most needed; 2) create a centralized resource center for Green Jobs to allow cities to discuss best practices and learn from one another; 3) facilitate policy coordination and sharing of information between the affected agencies; 4) create incentive and recognition systems for exemplary green employers; and 5) produce early non-qualitative analysis of green job training and random assignment evaluation for early assessment and accountability of Green Jobs training programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the USCM should take steps to better implement and increase the opportunities for Green Jobs development in their cities such as: 1) track local demand for green jobs through data collection and analysis; 2) expand the local green economy by investing in green technology such as instituting solar alternative power initiatives that increase the number of solar cells attached to our power grids, implementing energy efficiency capital improvements, retrofitting state-owned buildings and making use of other

energy forms such as wind power or geothermal; 3) work with the business community to form Green Jobs councils in our cities that can best direct human resources to growing green industries; 4) create standards to accurately assess green jobs, employers and processes; and 5) create incentive and recognition systems for exemplary green employers.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**AMERICAN INVESTMENTS TO SOLVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY
CHALLENGES AND CREATE NEW JOBS IN AMERICA**

WHEREAS, more than 50 mayors and other leaders met at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' Action Forum on Environment and Energy in Miami on October 1-2, 2008, to develop an action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, following that meeting a working group of mayors drafted a national action agenda on Environment and Energy; and

WHEREAS, that national action agenda includes a series of findings and recommendations to solve environmental and energy challenges and create new jobs in America; and

WHEREAS, the mayors found that:

- Addressing our nation's environmental and energy challenges require an expanded partnership between Mayors and the federal government, especially in metropolitan areas which can have the most significant impact on the climate change issues that face the nation;
- These investments will not only help solve our environmental and energy challenges but they will also serve as a catalyst for new jobs in America;
- According to research conducted by Global Insight and The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Center, in 2006 there were more than 750,000 Green Jobs in the U.S. economy;
- It is estimated that by 2038, 4.2 million new jobs could be created, if certain policies and investments were made in the United States;
- This could provide as much as 10% of the new job growth in the economy over the next 30 years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy on American Investments called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Environment and Energy to urge the President and Congress to accelerate improvements to the nation through:

- Fully fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program at the authorized level and move toward a \$4 billion annual funding level; and
- Increase federal funding commitments to public transit and non-motorized travel options and allocate available transportation resources directly to metropolitan areas; and

- Green the U.S. Tax Code (e.g., incentivize energy efficiency and conservation, renewable energy supplies, and transit-oriented development as well as commercial and residential development resulting in lower carbon emissions).

ENCOURAGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GREEN REENTRY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has established policy on both "Green Jobs" and successful prisoner reentry programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has enacted legislation such as the Clean Energy Act, the Second Chance Act, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that encourage both prisoner reentry and green jobs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has included funding for "Green Jobs" in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and in funding bills for FY2009; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution during the 2008 Annual Conference urging mayors to strengthen job training programs to encourage low income residents into this emerging field; and

WHEREAS, the City of Baltimore is currently establishing a Green Jobs Creation Coalition, which will identify the needs of businesses, develop training programs, and work to move the City's unemployed and under-employed, including those returning to the community from incarceration, into gainful employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has made the creation of green jobs a priority through adoption of the Chicago Climate Action Plan and has demonstrated the success of ex-offender job training through its fifteen-year-old groundbreaking Greencorps program, which trains disadvantaged Chicagoans with barriers to employment for green jobs, including home energy retrofits, computer repair and landscaping; and

WHEREAS, the Nation's first 'green' reentry center is currently being built by Generations Inc. in southern New Jersey within which ex-offenders will be trained in energy efficiency technology installation, sustainable building practices and green roof maintenance; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics 67.5% of prisoners released are rearrested within 3 years; and

WHEREAS, programs like the U.S. Department of Labor's Prisoner Reentry Initiative have shown promising results where only 14% of those participating in the Initiative are rearrested after one year as compared to the national average of 44%; and

WHEREAS, allowing ex-offenders to take advantage of job training programs in the growing green jobs field will allow them access into emerging markets with marketable skills and the potential for long term employment, aiding them in successfully reintegrating into society; and

WHEREAS, successful reintegration strategies will help to reduce crime rates by reducing the recidivism rate; and

WHEREAS, the cost of ex-offenders re-offending is not only a substantial burden on our overcrowded prison system, but on our social services because of the effects of families that have been left behind,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Congress to provide incentives to local and state governments that encourage training persons in custody and subject to court supervision in new and emerging fields and assisting them in obtaining jobs in such fields; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Congress provide maximum authorized funding for Green Jobs Act Grants especially the "Green Pathways out of Poverty" Program as well as the Second Chance Act Grants for FY2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors further encourage its membership to develop innovative strategies to include ex-offenders in the expanding 'green' economy.

MAKING GREEN SCHOOLS A REALITY

WHEREAS, more than twenty percent of America - including our students, faculty, staff, and administrators - spends their day in a school building; and

WHEREAS, America's nearly 100,000 K-12 public schools are in desperate need of rehabilitation with school-infrastructure needs exceeding \$250 billion, according to a 2008 study released by the American Federation of Teachers; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 The United States Conference of Mayors led the green schools movement by passing a seminal resolution to ensure that in a generation every child in America will attend a green school; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 Members of Congress have joined the bipartisan Congressional Green Schools Caucus in the House of Representatives, formed in 2007 with the aim of raising awareness of the benefits of green schools, leading the federal policy discussion in various forums and creating legislative opportunities for the collective efforts of the caucus members; and

WHEREAS, given the significant role of state legislation in addressing public school infrastructure, six state lawmakers launched the "50 For 50" Green Schools Caucus Initiative in 2008 to encourage and support the formation of a green schools caucus in every state legislature in the country within two years; and

WHEREAS, mayors across the country have urged their respective governors to join them in a commitment to advance green schools, working to ensure that the appropriated State Fiscal Stabilization funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 are dedicated to green school modernization efforts; and

WHEREAS, children in green schools are healthier and more productive because green schools emphasize excellence in areas such as daylighting, thermal comfort, and classroom design -- all of which have been shown to improve children's well-being and ability to learn; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of cleaner indoor air quality -- a key emphasis of green schools -- have been linked to lower asthma rates, fewer allergies, reduced absenteeism, and increased teacher retention rates; and

WHEREAS, green schools provide a learning experience that transcends the classroom by using the built environment as a context for learning, encouraging environmental literacy and hands-on, project-based learning; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools using tools like the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system significantly improve human, environmental, and economic health; and

WHEREAS, greening existing schools focus on low or no-cost operations and maintenance improvements, such as implementing water efficiency measures, green cleaning programs, sustainable purchasing practices, recycling and waste reduction initiatives, and energy management plans that can save a school district millions of dollars a year in direct operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, schools embody our hopes and aspirations for the future and we make an important statement about our dedication to that future by building, repairing, and operating our schools in the most responsible and sustainable way possible,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors reconfirms its commitment to the goal that in a generation every child in America will attend a green school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses and is dedicated to working toward the passage of the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 2187), which would provide billions of dollars in funding to schools for much-needed green school repairs, retrofits, and modernizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to commit additional research funding to *evaluate, understand and enhance* the environmental, economic and health benefits of green schools.

MAYORAL LEADERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

WHEREAS, mayors are increasing their interest and engagement in education; and

WHEREAS, cities are beginning to redefine their roles in education; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan called for mayoral takeover of big-city school districts at The U.S. Conference of Mayors' National Forum on Education on March 31, 2009, saying mayoral control produces real progress in the sense of innovation and the stability and strong leadership needed to overhaul urban schools; and

WHEREAS, Education Secretary Arne Duncan has called for major reform in the No Child Left Behind Act including rigorous national academic standards, better data management systems, better student assessments, improved teacher quality and a less punitive focus on accountability for student achievement; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3 million students live in cities with formal mayoral control and over 50 million do not; and

WHEREAS, mayoral involvement includes both mayors with and without control of their school districts; and

WHEREAS, 6,000 of the country's 95,000 schools are labeled as needing restructuring or corrective action because of low test scores; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called for many of the controversial initiatives that districts with mayoral control typically push heavily for such as charter schools, accountability based on rigorous testing standards, and merit pay for teachers; and

WHEREAS, Congress has provided \$140 billion for education in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requiring that drastic reforms are made to the education system throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, urban districts turn to mayoral control following long periods of lagging achievement and dysfunction; and

WHEREAS, districts under mayoral control have shown the greatest academic improvements in low performing schools; and

WHEREAS, mayoral control has led to increased spending in support services in their district budgets; and

WHEREAS, mayoral engagement leads to new visions in education for a city's student population; and

WHEREAS, mayors use their bully pulpit to build civic capacity among stakeholders across government, non-profit, and business sectors to create education initiatives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges state and local governments to encourage the engagement of mayors in education in both circumstances where there is mayoral control and informal mayoral engagement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes and supports the rightful role of mayors to do what needs to be done to promote the interests of public school students and parents, and the schools, align the efforts of the city and the school system, and improve the lives, education outcomes and opportunities of the children who attend public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports mayoral leadership and involvement in education that makes a positive difference in the quality of teaching and learning in the city's schools, whether through direct forms of involvement or informal means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports a myriad of choices in selecting the level of mayoral leadership and involvement in education including utilization of the bully pulpit to build political support for education improvement that provides the impetus school districts need to speed reforms; fostering greater student achievement; providing greater visibility to important issues which forces decisions to be made; creating programs when needed; increasing public participation; working to enhance funding and resources; and setting new priorities when necessary.

ENDORISING THE PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION PLAN

WHEREAS, President Obama announced a comprehensive plan for public education on March 9, 2009, with a focus on (1) early childhood education, (2) reform, innovation, and investment in elementary and secondary education, and (3) restoring America's leadership in higher education; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan conferred with the mayors at the Mayors' National Forum on Education on March 31, 2009, and called for committed action in support of the President's plan, which is closely aligned with longstanding policy priorities of The U.S. Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Duncan has strongly backed mayoral control of large urban school districts to provide effective and sustainable leadership, and clear accountability for improving student success and closing the achievement gap,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the President's education plan, as presented by the Secretary of Education to the Mayors' National Forum on Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors continues to support a comprehensive and seamless set of services for children from birth through age 5, high standards across all publicly funded early learning settings, new programs to improve opportunities and outcomes, parental engagement in their child's early learning and development, enhancement of the early education workforce, and the availability of high-quality, affordable preschool for all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the President's plan to recruit, prepare, and reward outstanding teachers for new levels of excellence by investing in a national effort to prepare and reward outstanding teachers, recruiting the best and brightest to the field of teaching, challenging school districts to remove ineffective teachers from the classroom, and using rewards and incentives to keep talented teachers in the schools that need them the most; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports innovation and excellence in America's schools, including the President's plan for state-of-the-art assessment and accountability systems that provide timely and useful information about the learning and progress of individual

students, growth of high-quality charter schools and rigorous accountability for all charter schools, and reform of the traditional school calendar and structure of the school day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the goal of the nation achieving the highest proportion of students graduating from college in the world by 2020, and the goal that all Americans should be prepared to enroll in at least one year of higher education or job training to better prepare our workforce for a 21st century economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the President's plan to increase higher education access and success by restructuring and dramatically expanding college financial aid, address college completion and strengthen the higher education pipeline to ensure that more students succeed and complete their degree, and invest in community colleges to equip a greater share of young people and adults with high-demand skills and education for emerging industries.

**POLICY REVIEW TO REDUCE THE HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUT RATE AND
PROVIDE MORE ENGAGING EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to a meaningful education and a high school diploma for all youth; and

Whereas, joy in learning, confidence in one's abilities, and interest in lifelong education are important social values; and

WHEREAS, only about half of young people in urban communities graduate from high school on time and nearly 50% of African-American and Latino youth do not complete high school; and

WHEREAS, the high school drop-out rate has not reduced in recent years; and

WHEREAS, a renewed policy examination is needed in order to determine causes and solutions for the high school drop-out crisis; and

WHEREAS, a number of sources for such an examination exist, including the work of America's Promise, the Dellums Commission Report of the Joint Center for an examination of international policies and practices,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Department of Education to undertake a wide-ranging study of those policies and practices which may enhance the educational experience and completion rates of all U.S. high school students, particularly those groups which are currently most likely to drop out in the U.S.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department report whether high school students retained in the same grade for more than one year are more likely to drop out; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department report whether homeless and foster youth are more likely than others to drop out of high school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department report on the impact of early punitive grading, testing and suspension policies on the likelihood of African-American and Latino students leaving school without a diploma; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department report of the educational practices of other countries, including Denmark and Finland, which have higher literacy rates and lower high school drop-out rates than the U.S., with regard to the age at which they begin reading instruction, and their general approach to child development and happiness with school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department report on the impact of providing wraparound services, such as health centers, service learning, small learning communities, sport and art activities, and caring adult advocates on the likelihood of students experiencing school satisfaction and earning their diplomas on time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Department of Education engage the people of the U.S. in a dynamic dialogue about what policies are likely to lead to student engagement, school completion, equitable school experiences, and joyful lifelong learning.

**EXPANDING INVESTMENTS IN COORDINATED FULL-DAY LEARNING
STRATEGIES TO ENSURE THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH**

WHEREAS, America's young people are falling behind in today's global economic marketplace, not fully prepared to succeed in a competitive workforce, to safeguard our democracy nor repair our environment; and

WHEREAS, our education system must both build knowledge as well as foster creativity, innovation, and critical thinking; and

WHEREAS, quality after-school opportunities are proven to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork by providing life-shaping enrichments; and

WHEREAS, aligning school-day and after-school learning is critical to provide the best learning environment possible for students from the moment they wake until they go to bed; and

WHEREAS, improved coordination of libraries, recreation and parks departments, police, community centers, and youth serving organizations with schools through a strategic planning process will achieve greater accountability toward full healthy development of youth,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for federal, state and local levels of government to invest in coordinated full day learning strategies that incorporate academic, social, emotional and physical activities to ensure the well-rounded and healthy development of youth by:

- Working with education administrators and local education agencies to integrate community after-school programs and organizations into the school day; and
- Creating funding opportunities for building city-wide after-school initiatives so all K-12 students can learn from aligned after-school experiences; and
- Providing support and incentives for professional development training for school and after-school staff and paraprofessionals of schools and after-schools; and
- Encouraging the development and use of assessments to ensure accountability for high quality programming and to identify additional supports to achieve measurable outcomes for youth; and
- Investing in intermediaries and public/private partnerships to serve as coordinating entities to promote broad

leadership support and ensure efficiency and high quality services; and

- Coordinating multiple use of public and private facilities that serve youth to increase participation and access to quality program opportunities.

**EXPANDING SCHOOL CHOICE THROUGH INCREASED SUPPORT FOR HIGH
QUALITY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, today, there are more than 4,600 public charter schools serving over 1.4 million students and families in 40 states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, in the 2008-2009 school year 426 new public charter schools opened, further expanding the portfolio of public school choice nationwide; and

WHEREAS, public charter schools serve a disproportionate and increasing number of poor and minority students (over 60%), providing a critically needed educational alternative in our most underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, public charter schools are often shortchanged on public funding, nationally receiving only 78% in average per-pupil funding compared with their district counterparts; and

WHEREAS, many public charter schools are helping to increase academic performance, graduation rates and college matriculation; and

WHEREAS, school choice has strong public support with over 75% of registered voters favoring giving parents more options when choosing a public school for their children and supporting the lifting of state caps on the number of charter schools,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the contribution of public charter schools in expanding high quality educational options and urges the federal government to strengthen its investment in high quality public charter schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports lifting state caps on the number of charter schools to address the demand as evident by the 375,000 children and families currently on charter school waiting lists; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports public school funding to follow the child, closing the funding gap between traditional and public charter schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports funding facilities for public charter schools to alleviate the crippling financial burden on charter schools to

finance capital expenditures out of their limited operational budgets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors increase accountability and oversight to ensure all public charter schools are providing a high quality alternative to traditional public schools.

SUPPORTING FAMILY LITERACY

WHEREAS, the correlation between income and education has been clearly documented; low education levels combined with low income lead to higher mortality and poorer health, higher incarceration and lower workforce participation; and

WHEREAS, tens of millions of American adults are unable to apply basic reading, writing, and math skills in adult life contexts and millions more are only marginally literate; and
WHEREAS, one in five American workers reads at an eighth-grade level or below; and

WHEREAS, in professions such as health care, retail trade, construction and transportation where employment is rapidly increasing, there will be a greater demand for a better educated, more prepared workforce; and

WHEREAS, the gap between workforce skills and the demands of a 21st century economy will increase exponentially and the cost to the economy in lower productivity and lost production will be astronomical; and

WHEREAS, the United States is a nation of immigrants, comprising of more than 35 million residents born outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, eighteen percent of U.S. households speak a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS, family literacy is a proven intergenerational approach that improves the literacy, language and life skills of both parents and children; and

WHEREAS, family literacy programs offer the promise for helping to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and low literacy in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, family literacy programs:

- are a unique and holistic approach that support families most in need, provide a comprehensive, integrated intergeneration literacy program of services that integrates: early childhood education, adult education for parents, and interactive literacy activities between parents and their children; and training for parents regarding how to be the primary teacher for their children and full partners in the education of their children; and

WHEREAS, children who grow up in "literacy rich" households - environments where they observe the people around them using their reading, writing and communication skills have a demonstrated head start in school; and

WHEREAS, research establishes that children participating in family literacy programs come to school better prepared, attend school more regularly, achieve higher standardized test scores in reading, language, and math, and are more likely to complete their education; and

WHEREAS, children whose parents are involved, do better in school and are much more likely to succeed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that federal, state, and local governments expand their support for family literacy programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to authorize and designate appropriations for family literacy programs.

AMERICAN INVESTMENTS TO COMBAT POVERTY

WHEREAS, mayors from cities across the nation met in Los Angeles September 23 and 24, 2008 to develop an action agenda on poverty to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles meeting culminated two years of work by the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity on this national action agenda on poverty; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- A growing and resilient middle class is the foundation of a prosperous city; and
- Good schools, a strong economy which provides well-paying jobs, responsive city services, and safe and supporting neighborhoods are more likely to exist, or are more easily attainable, in cities which have a large or growing middle class; and
- Poverty and the socioeconomic fragmentation it creates are inextricably linked to the ability of the U.S. to remain economically competitive; and
- A comprehensive and multifaceted approach to policy making will have the greatest effect on eliminating poverty in this country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the investments called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Poverty:

- For the Earned Income Tax Credit, which has lifted nearly five million people out of poverty each year, the tax benefit should be tripled, the eligibility age should be reduced to 21, the benefits to childless adults should be expanded, and the application process should be simplified by making the credit automatic, i.e., by requiring that the Internal Revenue Service automatically generate the credit for all who qualify for it; and
- Funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) should be doubled to \$8 billion, allowing mayors to continue to address the critical affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs of their cities; and
- Funding for the Section 8 housing voucher program should be increased.

POVERTY

WHEREAS, mayors from cities across the nation met in Los Angeles September 23 and 24, 2008 to develop an action agenda on poverty to present to the next President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles meeting culminated two years of work by the Conference of Mayors Task Force on Poverty, Work and Opportunity on this national action agenda on poverty; and

WHEREAS, the mayors agreed that:

- The problems surrounding reducing poverty are inextricably linked and require a multifaceted approach to breaking the cycle of poverty: Where you find one entrenched problem, you likely will find another; and
- Poor housing opportunities are related to poor education opportunities; and
- Poor schools contribute to poor employment opportunities; and
- The nation's dropout crisis is a particularly troubling aspect of the poverty problem; and
- A dead-end, low wage job makes it impossible for families to build assets and financial security: Even full-time work can fail to lift workers out of poverty; and
- It is time for a significant paradigm shift in federal policy, one that empowers mayors and other local leaders to set priorities in their areas with greater accountability for specific outcomes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors adopts as its policy the actions called for by the mayors in the National Action Agenda on Poverty:

- A cabinet-rank position to direct, coordinate and promote poverty reduction programs - with special emphasis on universal pre-K education across federal executive agencies and departments - should be created; and
- Funding for universal pre-K and other early childhood programs should be increased to reach all eligible participants. Mayors recognize that student achievement is inextricably linked to early childhood education, health and nutrition, social service supports, and parental involvement; and
- Universal healthcare for children and families - a comprehensive health insurance benefits package that will provide quality medical, dental, and mental health services for all people - should be established; and

- The federal government should greatly expand financial literacy programs to meet a critical need in this particularly difficult economic climate. The current turmoil in the housing and credit markets underscores the growing need for local financial literacy strategies to educate city residents, at every stage of life, about financial issues; and
- A significant portion of revenues from federally imposed fines, penalties and fees on financial institutions should be used to fund local financial education programs and initiatives.

**REQUIRE THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT TO BE CALCULATED BY THE
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO BETTER ACCOMMODATE WORKING FAMILIES
AND INDIVIDUALS**

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working individuals and families, originally approved by Congress in 1975 to offset the burden of social security taxes and to provide an incentive to work; and

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit is the nation's largest wage support for low-income workers; and

WHEREAS, cities are the economic engines of this country, and mayors are responsible for leading local and regional economic growth and the Earned Income Tax Credit provides working families who struggle to stay above the poverty line with a tax credit that makes a difference to their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, when the EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who claim and qualify for the credit, creating household revenue for low-income heads of families; and

WHEREAS, to qualify for EITC, taxpayers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if they did not earn enough money to be obligated to file a tax return, and must either seek community tax preparation services, or pay for a tax preparation service, creating a disincentive to requesting the EITC; and

WHEREAS, the website of the Internal Revenue is sufficiently complicated and requires up to 30 minutes to utilize the online tool to calculate EITC, thereby reducing its effectiveness to families who do not have access to broadband; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of households fail to see revenue from the EITC to which they would be otherwise entitled, if access to EITC were made easier,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reform the process of applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit by requiring the Internal Revenue Service to provide the calculation for EITC, so that the benefits available to lower income families and individuals will be increased, simplified, and easier to access.

**SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON MIDDLE-
CLASS WORKING FAMILIES**

WHEREAS, middle-class working families are the backbone of our nation and the stronghold of our economy; and

WHEREAS, as local elected officials it is our responsibility to address the growing economic and social concerns of the middle-class, including education, access to health care, jobs and workforce housing; and

WHEREAS, every American deserves a quality and affordable education, access to quality healthcare, a stable job where they can succeed and affordable housing options; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has launched a White House Task Force on Middle-Class Working Families, a major initiative targeted at raising the living-standards of American middle-class working families; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force will be chaired by Vice President Joe Biden, comprised of top-level administration policy makers, and will conduct outreach sessions with representatives of labor, business and advocacy communities in addition to its regular meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force will work with a wide-array of federal agencies that have responsibility for key issues facing middle-class working families and will expedite administrative reform, propose Executive Orders, and develop legislative and policy proposals that will be of special importance to working families; and

WHEREAS, our nation's middle class working families are facing significant challenges and barriers to the American dream and as local elected leaders it is imperative that we work with federal officials to adopt initiatives that ensure the American dream is still achievable,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the creation of the White House Task Force on Middle-Class Working Families and we support the Task Force's efforts to work throughout the federal government to develop policies to expand education and workforce training, improve work and family balance, restore labor standards and protect working families income and retirement security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the White House to include Mayors in the Task Force's outreach sessions.

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides flexible federal funding to states and localities to support a broad range of community-based programs to combat poverty, provide emergency services to low-income people, empower people to achieve self-sufficiency, and to revitalize low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, the CSBG program helps move low-income populations out of poverty to self-sufficiency by providing a variety of comprehensive, outcome-driven services. These programs include employment, education, youth development, family support, senior services, health care, nutrition, transportation, housing, and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies administer CSBG funding and coordinate services for their local areas; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies help leverage additional federal, state, local, and private resources to develop and provide a coordinated array of resources to help families and individuals achieve self-sufficiency, ameliorate the causes and manifestations of poverty, and revitalize low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, the current economic climate raises the demand for CSBG services, such as:

- Employment Programs to provide job readiness, training, and placement assistance,
- Afterschool Programs to enable working families to maintain employment, reduce absenteeism, and increase workforce productivity, while providing academic support for children,
- Youth Internship Programs to assist young people with skills building, career exploration, job readiness, and job preparation that help them become successful and productive adults,
- Youth Leadership to facilitate youth development and civic engagement,
- Literacy Instruction to provide Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs in reading, writing and mathematics to native English or English-fluent speakers, General Educational Development (GED) programs to prepare students for tests to obtain a high school equivalency diploma, and support to

the nation's growing immigrant population to attain English and workplace literacy whereby they can obtain and retain employment and advance in their careers,

- Housing Advocacy to help prevent evictions, foreclosures, and homelessness,
- Senior Services to foster healthy physical, psychological, and social well-being and promote independent living,
- Healthy Families and Family Support to provide case management and promote family stability; and

WHEREAS, the CSBG program was authorized under the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, which consolidated 77 anti-poverty grant programs into 9 block grants; and

WHEREAS, the CSBG legislation was amended in 1998 by the Coates Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998 and sunset in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration made a major investment in the CSBG program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with a \$1 billion appropriation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to reauthorize CSBG; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in CSBG reauthorization legislation, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to:

- Maintain flexibility to local areas to allow for a wide range of programs and strategies that meet the unique needs of the targeted communities,
- Maintain the focus on community development, neighborhood revitalization, and building capacity of its residents to create their own opportunities and achieve self-sufficiency,
- Protect local control and flexibility for the local Community Action Agencies to develop and implement their comprehensive local plan to address the unique needs of local areas,
- Raise the income eligibility of services to 200 percent of the federal poverty level as permitted under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009,
- Maintain and update the distribution of funds based on current poverty indicators,
- Ensure funding be at an adequate level to support and expand services and programs to meet the needs of the nation's low-income communities, individuals and families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress make a major investment in our nation's low-income communities, individuals and families by reauthorizing CSBG this year.

ENCOURAGING VOLUNTEERISM

WHEREAS, volunteers make an invaluable difference in cities across the country by helping to solve problems, strengthen communities, improve lives, connect others, and transform their own lives; and

WHEREAS, cities and metropolitan areas can play a critical role in the national movement to increase community service and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, over 60 million Americans already donate over 8 billion hours of service each year; and

WHEREAS, volunteering provides numerous personal benefits to those who serve, such as a sense of pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that volunteering also provides health benefits to those who serve, such as lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression; and

WHEREAS, the call for volunteers is greater than ever before even as our nation's economic crisis forces charities and non-profit organizations to cut back; and

WHEREAS, city employees already contribute through combined charity campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Mayors around the country are already taking actions to increase volunteerism among their employees and community; and

WHEREAS, Mayors have a unique role to play in highlighting the importance of volunteerism to the health and well-being of the greater community; and

WHEREAS, numerous volunteer opportunities are available around the community, whether through non-profit or city-sponsored events; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2009, President Obama signed into law the Edward Kennedy Serve America Act, renewing our nation's commitment to encouraging service among all age groups; and

WHEREAS, volunteers can play an integral role in community efforts in a number of areas, including helping the poor,

improving education, encouraging energy efficiency,
strengthening access to health care; and assisting veterans;

WHEREAS, that residents eager to volunteer in cities all over
the country should be able to find meaningful opportunities to
give back to their community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of
Mayors encourages and supports the efforts of volunteers
throughout the country who strive to improve their communities
in small and large ways every day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors
congratulates Senator Kennedy on the passage of the Serve
America Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges
local elected officials to encourage volunteerism among their
employees and promote volunteer opportunities in their
community.