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# Assembly California Legislature



**WILMER AMINA CARTER**  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, SIXTY-SECOND DISTRICT  
CHAIR, ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON EDUCATION FINANCE

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THE STATES  
CURRICULUM COMMISSION

June 13, 2011

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon  
25<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
2184 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman McKeon:

The President's Budget for FY 2012 proposes a 50% funding cut to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program that provides core funding to Community Action Agencies nationwide.

I support Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County (CAPSBC), the designated Community Action Agency for our county and acknowledge the impact it makes in helping low-income individuals and families, not only in my 62<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District, but in the entire county. CAPSBC's plays a critical role at a time when many struggle to make ends meet with unemployment at double digits and the demand for public assistance increasing.

For over 45 years, CAPSBC has served millions of low-income county residents with emergency food services, utility assistance, transportation, rental and mortgage assistance, temporary shelter, clothing and disaster relief. These are the most vulnerable citizens in our county, including low-wage workers, children, senior citizens, disabled persons, veterans and their families. CAPSBC has demonstrated a long history of implementing cost-effective, innovative programs that move individuals out of poverty and enable them to become economically self-sufficient.

The proposed cuts to CSBG would severely impact the Food Bank operated by CAPSBC. San Bernardino County stands to lose the majority of its distribution of nearly 10 million pounds of food that help a half-million economically disadvantaged households every year.

There are currently 188 food distribution sites, including 33 Soup Kitchens which serve one million hot meals every year. The County of San Bernardino has 259,889 students in the free and reduced lunch program; 22,000 of these students are homeless. One of the many programs the Food Bank supports is the Kidz Fuel Snack Pack Program which provides over 1,000 K-12 students at 43 participating school sites with a backpack of nutritious food every Friday so they will have access to food during the weekend when school cafeterias are closed.

CAPSBC helps hundreds of Individual Development Account (IDA) participants every year to acquire long-term assets, such as a home, education or business, with a 2-to-1 cash match savings program. In 2010, the IDA program helped participants acquire assets valued at

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\$1.7 million. Asset development programs like this, which stimulate the local economy and encourage hard-working people to save and invest, could be cut in half.

In 2010, CAPSBC received \$2.4 million in CSBG funding and was able to leverage \$19.18 for every one dollar of CSBG funds in other sources. At a time when one in seven Americans and one in five children live in poverty, cutting funding to Community Action programs sacrifices low-income families, homeless vets, and disabled and elderly Americans. I urge full funding for CSBG and the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wilmer Amina Carter".

Wilmer Amina Carter  
Member of the Assembly, 62<sup>nd</sup> District