



September 26, 2016

Support Funding for Flint in the Continuing Resolution

Dear Senator,

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and the 85 undersigned organizations, we write to strongly support the passage of a clean, short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) that includes relief for Flint, Michigan. If Congress chooses to provide disaster relief for elsewhere in our nation, it must also include disaster relief for our communities in Flint, who have suffered long enough and require immediate federal assistance.

Congress must act to address emergencies whenever and wherever they occur, and the need is most acute when our most vulnerable communities are struck by disaster. This is true regardless of whether a disaster strikes in a red state, a blue state, or a purple state. Republicans who demand federal aid for their home states should also ensure funding for Flint, a community overwhelmingly composed of people of color and with nearly 40 percent of its residents living below the poverty line.

We are deeply concerned that the people of Flint, Michigan have been waiting for more than a year for emergency assistance. They require immediate aid, and further delays are unacceptable as a matter of basic decency and fairness. Tens of thousands of people in Michigan have been harmed by this crisis, and they continue to struggle to provide clean drinking water for their families. So far, 10,000 children of Flint will suffer from lead poisoning because of this disaster. These children deserve environmental justice, and they deserve clean drinking water. It is absolutely astonishing that in the greatest nation in the world, one with so many resources, the people of Flint continue to lack the most essential of needs—clean drinking water.

We were heartened to finally see some positive movement forward on relief for Flint in the Senate version of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA), but this is not enough. There has been no guarantee from House Republicans that they will include adequate relief for Flint in the House version of WRDA, and we have no idea when a final bill would get to President Obama's desk. The people of Flint deserved assistance more than a year ago, and they require assistance now, without further delay. Therefore, it is critical that aid comes now so that other children and families will not suffer.

Leader McConnell has proposed emergency funding to address the floods in Louisiana, but has rejected fully offset funding to address the crisis of lead-tainted water in Flint, Michigan. We believe that both the flood victims of Louisiana and residents of Flint, Michigan should be included in the Continuing Resolution, as vulnerable communities in both states require

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Executive Vice President & COO
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immediate assistance. It is inequitable to provide relief for Louisiana now, but to once again punt on assistance for Flint.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Zirkin, Executive Vice President, at (202) 263-2880 or Emily Chatterjee, Senior Counsel, at (202)466-3648.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
9to5, National Association of Working Women
A. Philip Randolph Institute
ACCESS
ACLU
AFL-CIO
African American Health Alliance
African American Ministers in Action
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Family Voices
American Federation of Government Employees
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers
American Islamic Congress
American Rivers
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
Americans United for Change
Andrew Goodman Foundation
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Bend the Arc Jewish Action
Campaign for America's Future
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good
Center for Community Change Action
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Popular Democracy
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Health Fund
Coalition on Human Needs
Common Cause
Daily Kos
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Environment America
Every Child Matters
First Focus Campaign for Children
Gamaliel
International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA)



International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)
The Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jobs With Justice
League of Conservation Voters
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
MomsRising
NAACP
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Association of Human Rights Workers
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Justice Coalition
National CAPACD
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation Black Women's Roundtable
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Disability Rights Network
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Jobs for All Coalition
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Priorities Project
National Urban League
National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
Native Organizers Alliance
Natural Resources Defense Council
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church in North America
People Demanding Action
People for the American Way
People's Action
PICO National Network
Poverty & Race Research Action Council
Progressive Congress Action Fund
Public Citizen
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
Service Employees International Union
Sierra Club
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
United Steelworkers (USW)
Voices for Progress
Young Progressives Demanding Action