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in order of seniority*

Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction:

As the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction develops its proposal to reduce the deficit by at least \$1.5 trillion over the next decade, we ask that in doing so you protect our nation's most vulnerable communities. We therefore strongly encourage you to review the recommendations from the Congressional Black Caucus' Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Alternative that was presented earlier this year.

A glaring omission from various deficit reduction proposals is a thoughtful analysis on how recommendations will affect the nation's most economically vulnerable populations. Recognizing this issue, the CBC Alternative Budget protects and strengthens the social safety net, accelerates our economic recovery, and brings fairness to the tax code.

Our FY 2012 alternative federal budget addresses the budget deficit while protecting important safety net programs needed by all communities. Our budget protects Social Security and Medicare, while making significant investments in education, job training, transportation, infrastructure, advanced research and development programs -- all of which will accelerate the economic recovery and strengthen the economic wellbeing of millions of American families. Additionally, our budget ensures \$3.4 trillion in deficit reduction over the next decade and saves an additional \$1.3 trillion over the next decade compared to the proposed FY 2012 House Republican budget. Without cutting Social Security and Medicare, we were able to achieve this by making tough, but responsible decisions, in raising new revenue by establishing parity in our tax system and closing corporate tax loopholes. Economists and reasonable citizens all agree that we need to cut our deficit, but we cannot do this on the backs of the most vulnerable. Instead, the most responsible recommendation is to ask those that benefit the most from the hard work of the American people to pay their fair share.

Smart and targeted investments in people, education, infrastructure and innovation will create jobs and ensure that the United States remains the world's leading economy. These investments will provide American people with the opportunity to earn, learn, save, and invest in their futures

The CBC's top priorities for the 112th Congress promotes the success of all communities. We focus on job creation and economic development, providing lifetime educational opportunities, and ensure access to quality and affordable health care. We can only make these goals a reality by



sustaining and strengthening the programs that invest in people. As the committee reviews issues in areas including energy, telecommunications, financial services, healthcare and education, careful consideration must be given to the impact of the various recommendations on minority communities. Whether it is workforce investment, unemployment insurance, community development block grants, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), we must continue to invest in people. These programs are vital to national interests as they train our workforce, stabilize our economy, and provide funding for our cities.

A fiscally sound budget that invests in our people is necessary to get our nation back on track. With no investment there will never be full economic recovery. The Congressional Black Caucus encourages our colleagues on the Super Committee to carefully review the attached FY12 CBC Budget Alternative, which enumerates these necessary programs and priorities. Our plan not only cuts the deficit and spending, but funds programs that have the most return on investment to get our economy moving. Our budget provides a more sustainable solution to our budget deficit crisis and put us on a path to bettering our nation.

Sincerely,



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Chairman
Congressional Black Caucus



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Chairman
Congressional Black Caucus Budget,
Appropriations, Taxation Taskforce

