

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
CONGRESSMAN DANNY K. DAVIS (IL-07)  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
"MEMBER'S DAY"  
Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

Chairman Spratt, Ranking Member Ryan and members of the Subcommittee I thank you for holding today's hearing on President Obama's proposed FY 2010 Budget.

I am indeed pleased to be here today and welcome this opportunity to testify and express my support for the administration's proposal to address a recession of great magnitude and a global economic downturn that is negatively impacting markets around the world. On a daily basis Americans are reminded of economic meltdown with historical job losses, unemployment rates and home foreclosures that are being felt in a very painful way.

I commend President Obama for his forward-focused comprehensive approach to addressing inherited interconnecting socio-economic woes.

Indeed, thank you Mr. President for having the audacity to propose a budget that:

- Invests in early childhood education, doubles funding for Early Head Start program and reauthorizes Child Nutrition to provide much needed ;
- Extends TANF supplemental grants to subsidize families experiencing prolonged periods of unemployment and states experiencing rapid increases in TANF applications;
- Invests \$1.0 billion over six years in a trust fund and enhances the Housing Choice Voucher Program to: help states and communities develop and preserve affordable housing; and more than two million low-income families rent safe and decent housing;
- Expands Pell Grants through mandatory funding and triples the number of graduate fellowships in science to provide lower-income students access to mainstream society and global demand for human capital;
- Transforms and modernizes the health care system by setting aside a reserve fund of more than \$630 billion over 10 years to hedge the impact of increasing health care costs being borne by families and businesses across America; and foremost
- Expands Department of Justice prisoner reentry programs, including an additional \$75 million for the Office of Justice Programs to expand grant programs authorized by the Second Chance Act to provide counseling, job training, drug treatment,

and other transitional assistance to more than 5 million people on parole and probation, up from 1.6 million just 25 years ago.

These issues are near and dear to my heart because they affect lower-income families that reside on “side-streets” across America. And I commend the President and stand behind him 100% for having the courage to address socioeconomic issues plaguing in a major way, metropolitan areas like Chicago.

Mr. Chairman, while I am in basic agreement with the budget approach, I am always concerned about the amount of money that we spend for defense and other military purposes and that we never allocate what I feel is appropriate and greatly needed for world hunger and medical needs, especially in so called under developed or third world nations.

Mr. Chairman, I want to finish up by expressing my great concern that we are not adequately investing in social rehabilitation programs in the Department of Justice, we are not adequately funding training opportunities for disadvantaged individuals and we are not adequately attacking the core problems associated with poverty and criminal justice issues such as substance abuse prevention and treatment.

The President's proposed \$75 million dollars for implementation of Second Chance Act is greatly appreciated; however, with over 2 million people languishing in our jails and prisons, with more than 650,000 returning home each year and more than 5 million on parole and probation, we need at least \$150 million to meaningfully implement these program activities in all fifty of the states and territories.

Unfortunately, these are large numbers of young people who did not complete high school and are in need of contained environments where they can receive remedial instruction, as well as job training and skills development. Therefore, we need to adequately fund our job corps centers so that these individuals can be prepared for entrée into the world of work.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to share some of my views and I am hopeful that at the end of the process we will have a document and the resources to more closely reflect my views on the budget.

Thank you very much and I yield back the balance of my time.