

Congresswoman Linda T. Sanchez
Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2010
Statement for the Record
March 11, 2009

Chairman Spratt and Ranking Member Ryan, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit my Fiscal Year 2010 budget priorities.

As Congress begins to work on its annual budget, I would like to share with the committee what I believe to be key legislative priorities that will once again put American working families first.

The United States is in a major economic slump. Businesses, large and small alike, are laying off employees in record numbers. Unemployment figures have ballooned to numbers unseen in decades. While the challenges we face are undeniably daunting, the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Request is a bold response to help steer the United States back on course.

I support the President's \$634 billion investment in our health care system. For far too long, the costs have skyrocketed and the ranks of the uninsured now close to 47 million have grown. Too many never see a physician until they visit an emergency room. The costs to employers and local, state, and the federal government are unsustainable.

In my home state of California over 6.6 million people find themselves without any health care coverage. It is unacceptable that in the world's eighth-largest economy, over 18 percent of residents cannot visit a physician to receive basic medical attention when needed.

Unfortunately, even though we spend more than every other nation in the world on health care, we fail to cover everyone, and those who are covered do not necessarily achieve good health outcomes.

I urge the Committee to strongly consider adopting the President's request to reform our health care system and to work to ensure that families can obtain affordable coverage. I support changing the tax code so that those most able to pay contribute a bit more in order to help restructure our ailing health care system. Today's investments will yield substantial savings in the future that will benefit us all.

As we reform health care, we must ensure that the American workforce will provide employment opportunities. I am pleased that the President's Budget sets out an ambitious but realistic plan to develop a new economy rooted in innovated green energy technology. As the County of Los Angeles struggles with a 10.8 percent unemployment rate, the people in my Congressional District are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to be part of the Green Jobs Revolution.

Job growth critical to jumpstarting our economy by keeping our youth, including those most at risk of becoming disconnected from the labor force, employed and prepared for the new Green Economy.

The gains from investing in cleaner, renewable sources of energy will stretch far beyond the creation of an American green jobs manufacturing base. These investments will advance our country's commitment to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. I would also urge the Committee to ensure that we invest in expansion of Trade Adjustment Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and the Workforce Investment Act. We cannot continue to be the only industrialized nation without a clear industrial and labor policy.

At a time when working families are facing ballooning health care and education costs, well-paying manufacturing jobs are being shipped overseas, and the threat of unemployment is looming, our budget must make key investments in critical programs that will help Americans through these tough economic times.

Through reforms to our nation's health care system, investments in our children's education and development of a productive American green jobs industry, the United States will regain its economic footing.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to share my priorities and support for President Obama's Budget Request.