



Thomas A. Schatz
President

March 28, 2011

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support H.R. 1167, the Republican Study Committee's (RSC) Welfare Reform Act of 2011.

At a time when the national debt has ballooned to more than \$14 trillion, members of Congress should be looking for every viable way to curtail wasteful and inefficient programs. Despite the passage of President Clinton's welfare reforms, national welfare spending has almost doubled since 1996 and is estimated to cost more than \$10 trillion over the next decade.

The Welfare Reform Act will require disclosure of the 77 means-tested welfare expenditures in the President's budget submission in an effort to increase transparency and accountability to taxpayers. Additionally, the bill would return the federal welfare budget to pre-recession levels after unemployment falls to 6.5 percent, extend work requirements to the food stamp program, and reallocate \$300 million of current welfare spending toward a new grant program that rewards those states which are able to reduce poverty and boost self-sufficiency without increasing government dependence. To be eligible for this grant, states would have to increase their "self-sufficiency ratio," calculated based on the number of families that are above the poverty line after excluding receipt of means-tested welfare spending.

Although taxpayers have spent more than \$16 trillion on state and federal welfare programs since the "War on Poverty" began in 1964, 43 million Americans still live at or below the poverty level while their dependence on government support continues to grow. It is clear that these spending programs are not successfully helping people to get back on their feet and it is time that lawmakers take steps to rectify the inherent problems in the welfare system. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support the Welfare Reform Act of 2011. All votes H.R. 1167 will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2011 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Schatz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.