

The Boston Globe

Liberal-labor coalition launches drive for Obama budget

Posted by Foon Rhee, deputy national political editor
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A coalition of liberal and union advocacy groups that lobbied aggressively for President Obama's economic stimulus package announced today that it will mount a similar effort to push through his budget.

The groups plan similar grassroots events, phone banks, and e-mails campaigns targeting members of Congress, as well as paid advertising. More than 40 major organizations have so far signed onto the \$5 million to \$7 million campaign, Americans United for Change said.

"Make no mistake: the Obama budget is real change – the change that Americans voted for in November," Chuck Loveless, legislative director for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, said in a statement. "As we were during the economic recovery plan, AFSCME will be a leader in the fight to pass the Obama agenda. Our members make America happen. And America deserves nothing less."

Obama's \$3.6 trillion spending outline is facing stiff opposition in Congress because of tax hikes on the wealthy, expansions of a range of government programs, and projected trillion-dollar deficits.

The joint statement for the "Rebuild and Renew America Now!" campaign and the list of participating groups is below:

A statement to support and build upon President Obama's budget priorities

President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 budget provides a visionary blueprint that turns away from the failed economic policies of the past and seeks to invest in our future by expanding opportunities for all. His budget commits major investments in health care reform, education, and clean energy, while restoring fairness to our tax system and reducing military expenditures over time in a responsible manner. It builds upon the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to protect Americans from the damaging impact of the recession and sows seeds of a sustainable prosperity.

We, the undersigned organizations, have joined in a campaign to Rebuild and Renew America Now to support and build upon the President's budget priorities. We strongly urge Congress to follow the priorities set forth in the President's blueprint: "A New Era of Responsibility – Renewing America's Promise" in developing its own Budget Resolution.

It is our firm belief that if these priorities are enacted, we will turn back the harsh trend of rising poverty, unemployment, hunger and homelessness. We can extend opportunity and security for families in all walks of life by expanding health care coverage, making college more affordable, supporting the financial and nutritional needs of low income families, expanding affordable housing, investing in a far-reaching policy that will develop clean sources of energy and protect the planet by reducing global warming pollution, and generate good jobs to rebuild our middle class.

These steps will set the federal budget on a responsible path – meeting the needs of families and making long-term investments in our nation’s future while gradually reducing the deficit. We call upon Congress to follow and build upon the President’s lead in crafting its Budget Resolution, recognizing that there is no time to waste in meeting the nation’s long-deferred needs.

ACORN

AFL-CIO

AFSCME

American Progressive Caucus Policy

Americans for Democratic Action

Americans United for Change

Campaign for America's Future

Campaign for College Affordability

Campaign for Fresh Air Clean Politics

Center for American Progress

Citizens for Tax Justice

Coalition on Human Needs

Community Action Partnership

Corporation for Enterprise Development

Environment America

Every Child Matters Education Fund

Food Research and Action Center

Health Care for America Now

League of Conservation Voters

MoveOn

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

National Low Income Housing Coalition

National Partnership for Women & Families

National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness

National Priorities Project

National Women's Law Center

NEA

NETWORK

People For the American Way

Public Education Network

RESULTS

Roosevelt Institution

SEIU

Sierra Club

The Arc of the United States

TrueMajority.org

United Cerebral Palsy

United States Student Association

USAction

US Public Interest Research Group

Wider Opportunities for Women

Women's Action for New Directions

Women's Voices Women Vote

YWCA USA