



For Immediate Release
June 3, 2010

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Congresswoman Gwen Moore and Milwaukee Community Leaders Promote Success of Recovery Act

Group calls on Congress to Continue Policies that Benefit Working Families

Milwaukee: Congresswoman **Gwen Moore** and Milwaukee faith, labor, and community leaders held a press conference today at the Century City (A.O. Smith/Tower Automotive) site to highlight economic development successes brought about by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Congresswoman Moore and others pointed to the distribution of small business loans, saved education jobs, and the recently announced contract with train manufacturer Talgo as evidence of the benefits the Recovery Act has brought to Milwaukee.

“Without the Recovery Act, Talgo wouldn’t be creating jobs in Milwaukee,” said Congresswoman **Gwen Moore** (D-Milwaukee). “Our economy has added new jobs over the past months, but we still have more to do. We will keep working until we have a full and robust recovery.”

“What this fight represents today is a renewed promise that good jobs will be the basis for the revival of a community, so that neighborhoods can be strengthened, and our streets returned to safety, and our hope restored,” said the **Reverend Ken Wheeler**, Pastor at the Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee and Chair of Jobs Committee at MICA, a network of Milwaukee congregations that works for social and economic justice.

Tina Carr, a Milwaukee day care operator and recipient of a small business loan provided with ARRA funds, explained how the stimulus bill helped her to expand her business.

The event was part of a national week of action led by Jobs for America Now that is calling for the creation of 1 million new jobs. Speakers at the Milwaukee event called for more federal initiatives that would prevent cuts in education jobs, law enforcement and firefighting personnel, municipal workers, and community service providers. Speakers also urged improvements to the Medicaid cost-sharing formula (known as FMAP) that would increase the federal government's share of funding Wisconsin's Medicaid budget.

Other speakers at the event included **Karen Royster**: Executive Director, Institute for Wisconsin's Future; **Rich Abelson**: Executive Director, AFSCME District Council 48; **Wendell Harris, Sr.**: Chair of the Education Committee of the Milwaukee NAACP; **Amy Stear**: Executive Director, Milwaukee 9 to 5, the Association for Working Women; **Howard Snyder**: Executive Director, Northwest Side Community Development Corporation; **Christine Neuman-Ortiz**: Executive Director, Voces de la Frontera; and **Robert Kraig**, Executive Director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin.

Members of the Wisconsin Alliance for Strong Communities, including leaders from Citizen Action of Wisconsin's Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods project, Institute for Wisconsin's Future, WISDOM, 9 to 5 Milwaukee, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Voces de la Frontera, the League of Young Voters, and the Institute for One Wisconsin will be present.

Additional participants include AFSCME, Community Advocates, the Milwaukee NAACP, Laborers Local 113, the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation, SEIU Wisconsin State Council, SEIU Local 1, Plumbers Local 75, IBEW Local 494, the Wisconsin PTA, the Democratic Party of Milwaukee County, SER - Jobs for Progress National, the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association (MTEA), and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU).

"We need to create jobs, training and educational opportunities for people with little or no real work experience," said Howard Snyder of the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation. "Public jobs, transitional jobs, and paid training are critical to making lower skilled and educated workers productive in the American economy."

"It is no exaggeration that the jobs created and protected by the Recovery Act may have prevented a second Great Depression," said Robert Kraig, Executive Director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin. "The crisis is far from over. Millions of jobs still hang in the balance, and tens of thousands will be lost if Congress does not find the political will to keep its foot on the stimulus pedal."

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