

# **“Jobs Not Cuts”**

**Telephone Briefing on Super  
Committee Negotiations to Prepare for  
Week of Action on Congress**

**Tuesday, October 4, 2011  
5:00pm PST / 8:00pm EST**

**Call-in number: 800-289-0459  
passcode 353392**

# Welcome

Kamara O'Connor  
PICO National Network

# On Call

*Over 800 community leaders, activists, organizers, health care advocates from 47 states plus D.C.*

- Alliance for a Just Society*
- Campaign for Community Change*
- Caring Across Generations*
- Community Catalyst*
- HCAN*
- National Domestic Workers Alliance*
- National People's Action*
- New Bottom Line*
- PICO National Network*
- SEIU*

# Super Committee Overview

Josh Nassar/SEIU



# The Budget Control Act

- Initial cuts of \$1 trillion
- 1.8 million jobs lost in 2012 alone
- Super Committee created to identify an additional \$1.5 trillion in deficit reduction
- Congressional votes required on proposal and Balanced Budget Amendment
- Penalties if proposal not passed (large automatic cuts: sequestration)

# Important Super Committee Stats

## Important Dates to Remember

- 10/14/11: House and Senate Committees may submit recommendations for debt reduction to Super Com
- 11/23/11: Joint Committee must vote on proposal,
- 12/9/11: Committees must report proposal without amendment to chamber floors
- 12/23/11: House and Senate must vote proposal up or down
- 12/31/11: House and Senate must vote on balanced budget amendment.
- 1/15/12: Sequester takes effect if proposal not passed.

## Members

- Sen. John Kyl (R-AZ)
- Sen. Patrick Toomey (R-PA)
- Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)
- Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)
- Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)
- Sen. John Kerry (D-MA)
- Rep. John Camp (R-MI-4)
- Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI-6)
- Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX-5)
- Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD-8)
- Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC-6)
- Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA-31)

# Sequestration

- Sequestration = across-the-board, automatic cuts
- \$1.2 trillion in sequestered funds if Super Committee's proposal is not passed.
- Half of these funds would come from non-defense spending.
- Some programs like Social Security and Medicaid would be protected from sequestration.

# Our Message to Super Committee

- Putting America back to work should be our top priority as a nation.
- The 14 million Americans looking for work are more concerned about surviving than they are about the budget deficit.
- A cut-only approach will not work. The best way to increase revenue is to put people back to work.
- The Super Committee must protect vital programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security that provide a lifeline for millions of Americans.

# What you can do

Mary Daley

Center for Community Change

# Common Policy Points & Message

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- Job creation not deficit reduction should be the country's priority
- Significant new revenue from corporations and wealthy individuals is necessary to balance the budget,
- Medicare and Medicaid should not be cut in any way that pushes costs onto states or beneficiaries, or reduces their access to care
- Social Security should be off the table as part of the deficit negotiations
- **Any agreement that fails to address these points is not worthy of support**

# Common Sense Approaches To Congress

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- **Agreement:** Look for ways to maximize how the member will work with your organization to call upon the Super Committee to support our position
- **Encouragement:** Find multiple messengers to call upon the to take action
- **Opposed:** Find creative ways to call on these members to change their positions and to educate the public about where these members stand on issues of essential economic security

# FIELD PROPOSAL

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- ✧ **Contact Members of Congress asap** regardless of whether or not they have supported or opposed our policy positions
- ✧ **Seek A Meeting** – Try to arrange these meetings in district during the Senate and House recesses: Senate Oct 7-10 and again Oct 24 to Oct 30, House recess: Oct 17 – 23
- ✧ **Ask the Members to write a letter to all the members of the Super Committee :**
  - ◆ Ask them to find their own way to express concern on our policy points
  - ◆ Share the letter that our organizations and national networks are sending to the Super Committee

# FIELD PROPOSAL

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## ✧ Ask Members To Go Public – Use the Power of Story

### Suggested Events:

- ◆ Story Tour Across the District or State,
- ◆ Fact Finding / Story Telling Hearing,
- ◆ Public Testimonial,
- ◆ Press Conference with Story Leaders.

Public events should also be targeted for the recess periods:  
Senate Oct 7-10 and again Oct 24 – 30<sup>th</sup>,  
House recess: Oct 17 – 23<sup>rd</sup>.

# Key Message Points & Role Play

# Call To Action

Margarida Jorge, HCAN

# WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THIS LATEST ROUND OF "DEFICIT REDUCTION" NEGOTIATIONS?

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- Health Care for children, seniors, the working poor and people with disabilities (if lawmakers decide to cut Medicaid and/or Medicare to as part of a debt reduction deal).
- Jobs—cuts to Medicaid mean job cuts; President Obama's Jobs Act could also be at risk if that legislation becomes a political trade-off in a debt deal.
- Implementation of the new health care law which will expand health care for millions may suffer if there are cuts to Medicaid, Medicare or other pieces of the ACA.
- Outcome of the 2012 Elections—remember that lawmakers view these negotiations not just as policy debate but as a political matter since voters will remember which Members on our side when it comes to jobs, health care and taxing the rich and which Members sided with millionaires and CEOs.
- **EVERYTHING'S ON THE TABLE.**

# WHAT CAN WE DO TO INFLUENCE DC “SUPERCOMMITTEE” NEGOTIATIONS? TAKE ACTION!

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◆ **Grassroots Action at the State Level Matters to Lawmakers—Communicate with your MOC/Senator and let them know constituents are engaged.**

- Calls to Member offices – 1-877-264-HCAN (4226).
- Visits with Members and their staff.
- Press Activities calling on Members to take a public stand for jobs, health care and raising revenue by asking the richest Americans and corporations to finally pay their fair share including Letters to the Editor, blogs, OP-Eds, as well as events like press conferences and actions.

# ENLIST ALLIES WHO HAVE CREDIBILITY & RELATIONSHIPS TO TAKE ACTION

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- ◆ **There's a role for everyone in the community when it comes to influencing this process.**
  - Who does the lawmaker listen to most (seniors, advocates, small business people)?
  - Who does the public listen to most (leaders, local politicians, etc.)?
  - How many people can you get to take an action, however small?
    - » Make a call.
    - » Write a letter.
    - » Sign a postcard.
    - » Send an email.

# GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION IS THE ONLY WAY TO BUST THE DC BUBBLE

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- We can't let the "Super Committee" make decisions that will impact our future through a secret process that excludes us.
- Insisting on input and constant communication with Members of Congress creates accountability and political pressure that influences the outcome of this process.
- We need every local voice to create a chorus loud enough to be heard all the way in DC. That means every person on this call has to take action and that we have to get many others to take action too.

# Questions & Next Steps