



## **TODAY: DO YOUR PART TO TURN AROUND THE ECONOMY BY SIGNING ON TO NATIONAL LETTERS**

As CPPPP stated yesterday (<http://www.cpppp.org/research.php?aid=745>), an effective economic stimulus must target aid to those who will be hardest hit by a recession and will most quickly boost the economy by spending to support their families. Today, national groups are asking organizations in Texas and other states to sign on to two letters that would provide timely, targeted, and temporary assistance to those most in need.

The first letter calls on Congress to include (1) an increase in the federal Medicaid matching percentage (FMAP), with a requirement that states must maintain eligibility to qualify for the funds and (2) a grant based on population. These same components were included in the 2003 economic stimulus legislation that was passed by a Republican Congress and signed into law by President Bush. To view the letter, as well as a letter by the National Governors Association, visit <http://www.cpppp.org/research.php?aid=746>. To sign on, email [lbennett@afscme.org](mailto:lbennett@afscme.org).

The second letter urges Congress to boost Food Stamp payments and extend unemployment benefits as part of the stimulus package. The Congressional Budget Office reports that Food Stamps and unemployment insurance would stimulate spending even more quickly than rebates. Congress is reported to have dropped these elements from the stimulus package and would instead boost business tax incentives, which are among the least effective ways to increase economic activity. To sign on to the letter, visit [http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/125/petition.jsp?petition\\_KEY=888](http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/125/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=888).

To learn more, sign up for e-mails, or make a donation, go to [www.cpppp.org](http://www.cpppp.org).

The Center for Public Policy Priorities is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization committed to improving public policies to better the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans.