



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

November 17, 2008

The Honorable Jim McDermott
United States House of Representatives
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McDermott:

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, I am writing to indicate our strong support for your legislation, H.R. 6941, the Measuring American Poverty Act of 2008. This bill updates the Federal Poverty Guidelines to provide an improved method for measuring the extent to which families in the United States have sufficient income to allow a minimal, socially acceptable, level of consumption that meets their basic physical needs. We are also in support of the Senate companion bill, S. 3636, by Senator Christopher Dodd.

Your legislation would help the City of Los Angeles better assess the effects of certain policies and programs in reducing the prevalence and depth of poverty, to accurately gauge the level of economic deprivation, and to ensure appropriate targeting of public resources. With an updated Federal Poverty Guidelines the Federal Government will have a more realistic understanding of poverty in the United States. In Los Angeles, we will be able to use this information to create programs that more efficiently and effectively deliver resources to those most in need.

We will be in contact with members of the Los Angeles congressional delegation to inform them of our support and encourage their co-sponsorship for 111th Congress.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

ARV:mdm