
AFSCME Support for Federal Jobs Acts

1. **WHEREAS:**

2. There is a jobs crisis in which mass unemployment continues to take its toll. At any given time during the Great Recession and its aftermath in the United States about 14 – 15 million people are officially unemployed (forced to work part-time or want a job but are not looking often because they can't find one). 16 – 18 million full-time workers earn less than the poverty level. That means about 44 million people and their families are casualties of the jobs crisis; and

3. **WHEREAS:**

4. Even before the Great Recession, millions were unemployed, underemployed and underpaid; and

5. **WHEREAS:**

6. America's roads need repair, our bridges are eroding, our children need more teachers, parents lack affordable childcare, seniors lack elder care, millions lack adequate healthcare, affordable housing is under siege, and we must green our economy; and

7. **WHEREAS:**

8. All of these needs can and should be met by the federal government; and

9. **WHEREAS:**

10. This was done during the Great Depression of the 1930's when Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal put millions of the unemployed to work doing useful jobs that have made a lasting contribution to our nation – roads, bridges, schools, libraries, housing, parks, arts, culture and much more; and

11. **WHEREAS:**

12. The labor movement and all its affiliates and supporters need to support the passage of legislation that guarantees a living-wage job to all who want one. Steps in that direction are: **1.** HR 4277 (Rep. John Conyers, D-MI) The Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act – would create a national jobs program, including 2.6 to 3.9 million jobs over the first two years, in affordable housing, neighborhood rehabilitation, energy conservation and weatherization, infrastructure repair, education, and human services; **2.** The Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act – HR 2914 (Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-IL) would create, 2.2 million public service jobs in school construction and maintenance, park improvement and restoration, education, child care, law enforcement, health care, energy conservation, and affordable housing; **3.** The National Infrastructure Development Bank Act of 2011 HR 402 (Rep. Rosa DeLauro D-Con.) establishes a National Infrastructure Development Bank, an independent body designed to evaluate and finance infrastructure projects of substantial regional and national significance. (A similar bill, S-652, the Senate BUILD Act introduced by Sen. John Kerry would establish an American Infrastructure Financing Authority - AIFA); **4.** S. 2252, the Rebuild America Act, introduced by Sen. Tom Harkin in March, a comprehensive bill to invest in roads, bridges and schools, raise the minimum wage, and reform trade policies and the tax code; and

13. **WHEREAS:**

14. Privatization, deregulation and outsourcing are tools for unionbusting and a major source of job loss; and

AFSCME Support for Federal Jobs Acts “con’t...”

15. WHEREAS:

16. Legislation is needed to create jobs and we need to organize and demand for it now!

17. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

18. The AFSMCE 40th International Convention being held at Los Angeles, CA – June 18 – 22, 2012, endorse, lobby and mobilize for the passage of the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act, the Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act and the National Infrastructure Development Bank Act of 2011, the BUILD Act, and the Rebuild America Act; and

19. THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

20. AFSCME urge all its affiliates and friends of labor to endorse, lobby and mobilize for the passage of the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act, the Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act and the National Infrastructure Development Bank Act of 2011, the BUILD Act, and the Rebuild America Act; and

21. THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

22. That AFSCME and all its affiliates mobilize against all schemes that embrace the privatization, deregulation and outsourcing of jobs and in support of legislation that would employ millions of jobless workers here in the United States at decent pay and for the improvement of the quality of life through repair and expansion of our physical and social infrastructure.

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