



★ ★ COMMITTEE ON ★ ★
WAYS AND MEANS
CHAIRMAN PAUL RYAN

Chairman Boustany Announces Hearing on Better Coordinating Welfare Programs to Serve Families in Need

Today, Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee Chairman Charles Boustany (R-LA) announced that the subcommittee will hold a hearing titled “*Better Coordinating Welfare Programs to Serve Families in Need.*” **The hearing will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 3, in room 1100 of the Longworth House Office Building.**

In view of the limited time available, oral testimony at this hearing will be from invited witnesses only. Witnesses will include experts on the operation of means-tested benefit programs funded at the federal and state levels. However, any individual or organization not scheduled for an oral appearance may submit a written statement for consideration by the committee for inclusion in the printed record of the hearing.

In announcing the hearing, Chairman Boustany stated, “**The U.S. welfare system is composed of 80-plus programs that are poorly coordinated and growing in cost. Yet despite rising spending, today there are 9.4 million more Americans living below the poverty line than there were in 2007, before the last recession. So we are spending more and getting fewer results we want. We need to review this whole system and determine how we can consolidate or, at the very least, better coordinate these programs to achieve better results – more work, reduced administrative cost and complexity, and ultimately more people achieving self-sufficiency and upward mobility.**”

BACKGROUND:

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, the federal government funds more than 80 programs that provide food, housing, healthcare, job training, education, energy assistance, and cash assistance targeted to low-income Americans. The federal government alone spends roughly \$750 billion annually on these programs, with state taxpayers contributing an additional \$283 billion to them in 2011, the most recent year of data. Nearly one third of the U.S. population receives benefits from at least one of these welfare programs. According to Senate Budget Committee, federal spending on these programs is expected to grow 80 percent in the next decade. Furthermore, the Government Accountability Office has reported, “Overlap and fragmentation among government programs or activities can be harbingers of unnecessary duplication. Reducing or eliminating duplication, overlap, or fragmentation could potentially save billions of tax dollars annually and help agencies provide more efficient and effective services.”

FOCUS OF THE HEARING:

This hearing will review the dozens of programs that comprise the federal welfare system, as well as ways they can be consolidated or better coordinated so they better serve those most in need.

DETAILS FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Please Note: Any person(s) and/or organization(s) wishing to submit for the hearing record must follow the appropriate link on the hearing page of the Committee website and complete the informational forms. From the Committee homepage, <http://waysandmeans.house.gov>, select "Hearings." Select the hearing for which you would like to submit, and click on the link entitled, "Please click here to submit a statement or letter for the record." Once you have followed the online instructions, submit all requested information. Attach your submission as a Word document, in compliance with the formatting requirements listed below, **by November 17, 2015**. Finally, please note that due to the change in House mail policy, the U.S. Capitol Police will refuse sealed-package deliveries to all House Office Buildings. For questions, or if you encounter technical problems, please call (202) 225-1721 or (202) 225-3625.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS:

The Committee relies on electronic submissions for printing the official hearing record. As always, submissions will be included in the record according to the discretion of the Committee. The Committee will not alter the content of your submission, but we reserve the right to format it according to our guidelines. Any submission provided to the Committee by a witness, any supplementary materials submitted for the printed record, and any written comments in response to a request for written comments must conform to the guidelines listed below. Any submission or supplementary item not in compliance with these guidelines will not be printed, but will be maintained in the Committee files for review and use by the Committee.

1. All submissions and supplementary materials must be provided in Word format and **MUST NOT** exceed a total of 10 pages, including attachments. Witnesses and submitters are advised that the Committee relies on electronic submissions for printing the official hearing record.
2. Copies of whole documents submitted as exhibit material will not be accepted for printing. Instead, exhibit material should be referenced and quoted or paraphrased. All exhibit material not meeting these specifications will be maintained in the Committee files for review and use by the Committee.
3. All submissions must include a list of all clients, persons, and/or organizations on whose behalf the witness appears. A supplemental sheet must accompany each submission listing the name, company, address, telephone, and fax numbers of each witness.

The Committee seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202-225-1721 or 202-226-3411 TTD/TTY in advance of the event (four business days notice is requested). Questions with regard to special accommodation needs in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats) may be directed to the Committee as noted above.

Note: All Committee advisories and news releases are available online at <http://www.waysandmeans.house.gov/>