

Half in Ten Presentation:

Senate Select Committee Hearing on Women
and Children: Hearing on Poverty

Melissa Boteach

Half in Ten Campaign



balance—that have
poverty rate.

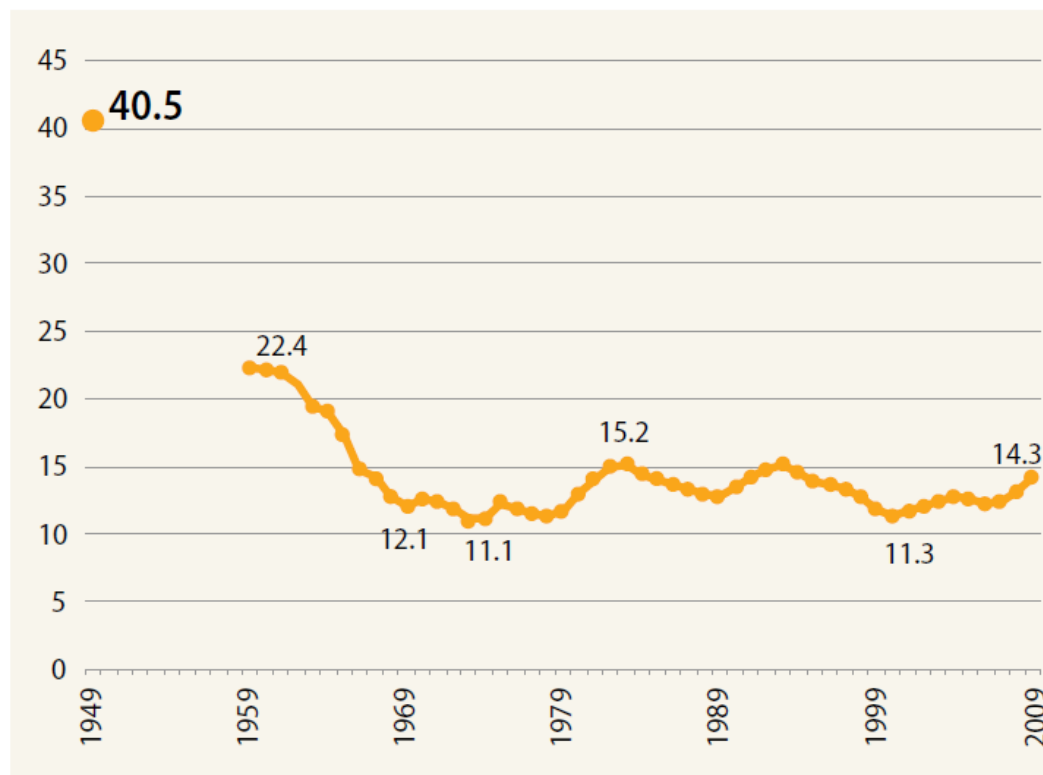
ifferences between two
categories for adults
—construction and care
out how we might con-
d jobs that already exist
t require college, and
obs into good ones.

n poverty

d poverty rates for 1949
Census year for the first
about their income in the
by projecting the 1950

Graph 1: Poverty can be reduced

THE U.S. POVERTY RATE: 1949 AND 1959-2009



Sources: Census Bureau, Historical Poverty Tables, Table 2. Poverty rate for 1949 is from Christine Ross, Sheldon Danziger, and Eugene Smolensky, *The Level and Trend of Poverty in the United States, 1939-1979*, *Demography* 24 (4) (1987): 587-600.

Balancing the Budget While Cutting Poverty in Half

- Earlier this year, Center for American Progress (Half in Ten partner) developed a long-term budget plan as part of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation Solutions Initiative.
- Our plan shows definitively that lifting people out of poverty is doable and affordable, even under strict fiscal constraints like the ones we are grappling with today
- Our budget plan relies on CBO's baseline and economic projections, and works from the current level of revenues and expenditures for all funds including Medicare and Social Security.
- The budget plan we developed takes a smart and balanced approach, both cutting spending significantly while raising needed revenue to fight poverty, grow the middle class, and strengthen the economy overall.

The details

SPENDING CUTS:

- Cuts spending by more than \$13 trillion below current projections over the next 25 years.
- Specifically, we brought down spending as a share of GDP from its current, recession-driven level of about 25 percent to just under 22.5 percent by 2015.
- We do this in part setting the limit on the unified security budget at about \$700 billion: approximately the same level, adjusted for inflation, as it was in 1986 at the height of the Cold War.

REVENUE INCREASES:

- On the revenue side, we developed a tax plan that raises needed revenue, fixes the tax system to make it fair and simple, realigns incentives, and eliminates wasteful tax breaks.
- Our plan introduces a flat 15 percent rate for couples with incomes under \$100,000.
- It restores the top tax rate to what it was under President Clinton, during the 1990s economic expansion.
- It eliminates inefficient tax expenditures that benefit big corporations instead of the middle class Americans.
- Despite reasonable constraints on taxes and overall federal expenditures, **our plan raises enough revenue to cut poverty in half by 2030:**

Investments to cut poverty

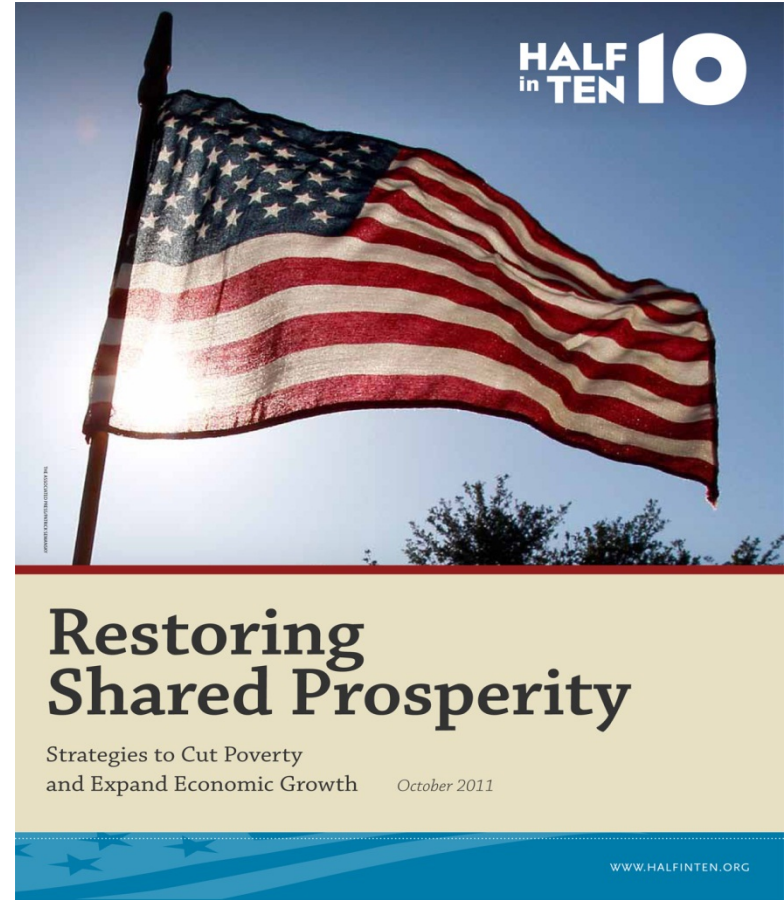
To Achieve the Goal of Cutting Poverty in Half the budget plan:

- Patches holes in the social safety net by:
 - increasing SNAP participation to 85 percent of eligible people
 - increasing federal support for affordable housing by 20 percent, and
 - raising the monthly Supplemental Security Income benefit to at least the poverty level.
- Maintains the newly enhanced Earned Income Tax Credit, and further increases the child tax credit.
- Strengthens Social Security to make sure it is able to serve Americans for generations to come
- boosts education funding to make sure that every child has a hand-up to the middle class from the very start.

Why Poverty? Why Now?

We cannot build a competitive economy if 46 million Americans are living in poverty, and if over 100 million Americans are struggling to just to make ends meet.

Lifting people out of poverty isn't just a moral obligation—it is a fundamental part of building a strong and healthy economy that works for everyone. That message is a critical part of the budget work we're doing today.



Restoring Shared Prosperity

Data, Essays and Policy Solutions on:

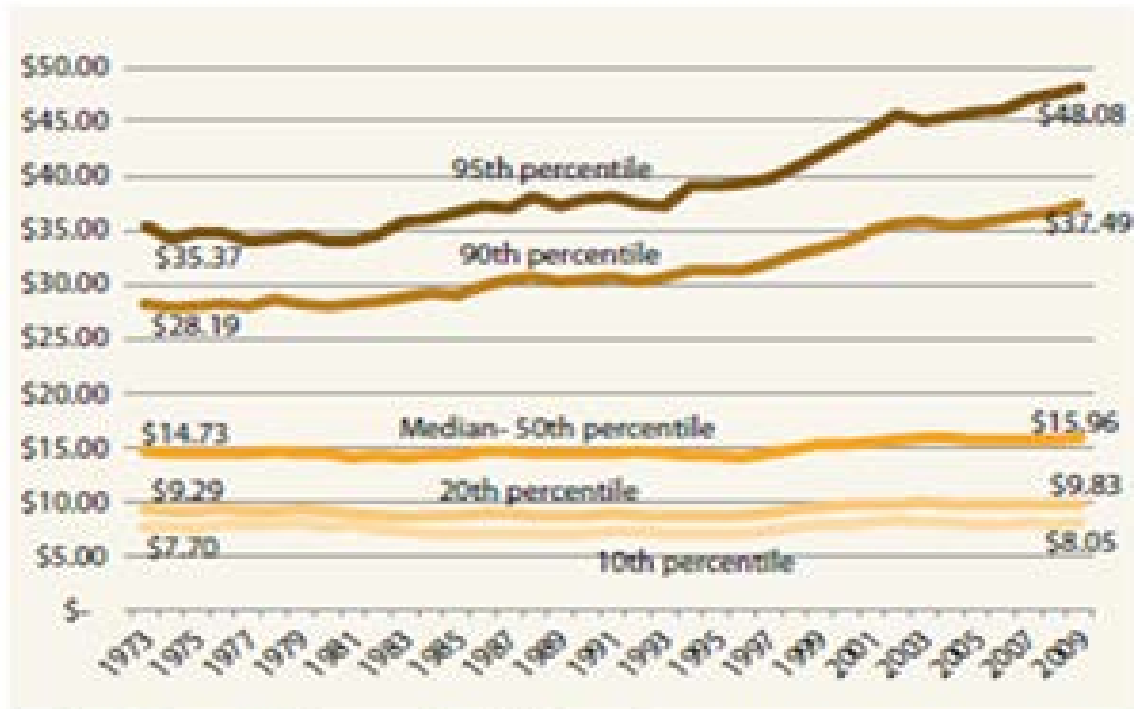


Pillars of a strategy to
cut poverty in half in 10 years

Good Jobs

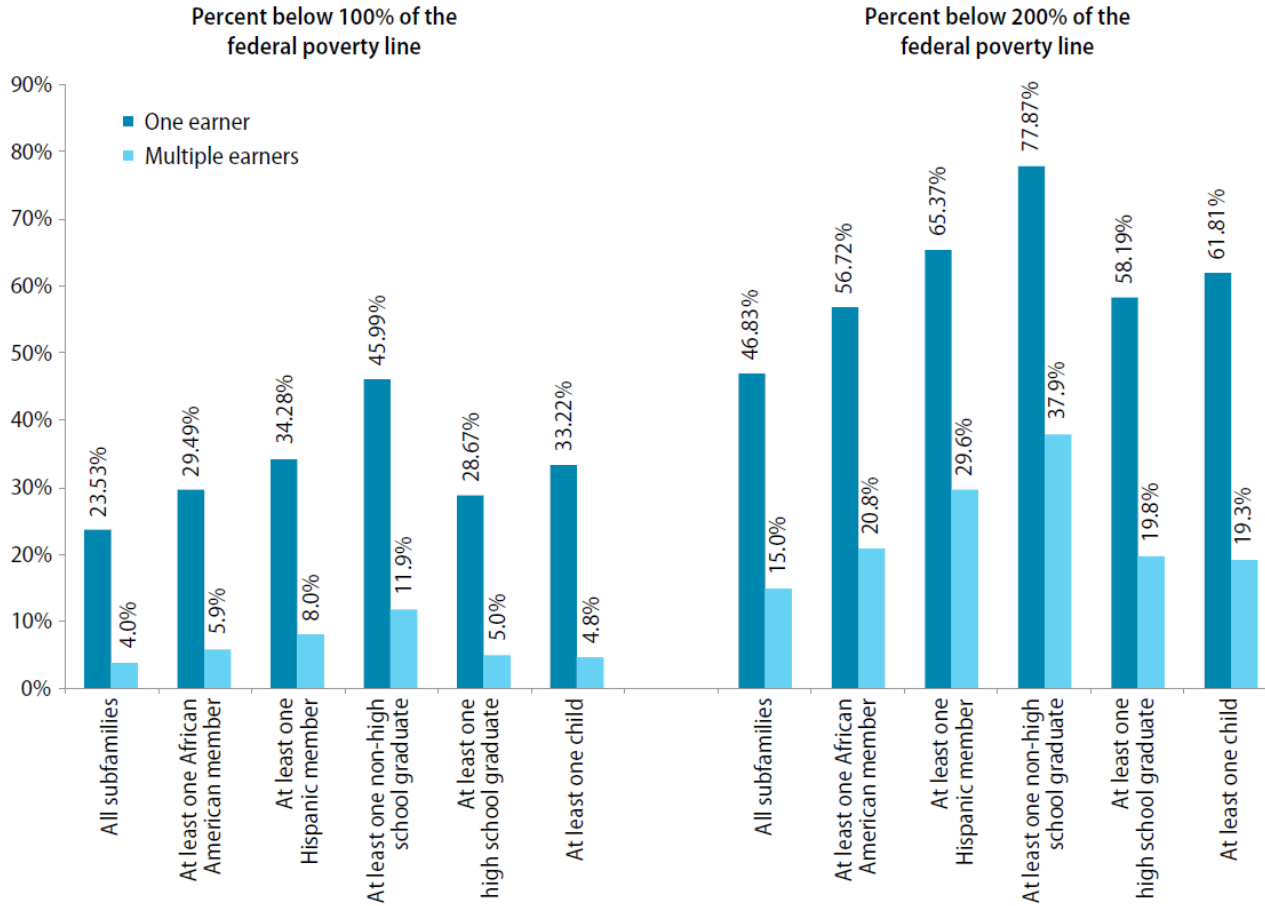
Graph 4: The better paid now get paid even better

U.S. WAGES BY SELECTED WAGE DECILES, 1973-2009



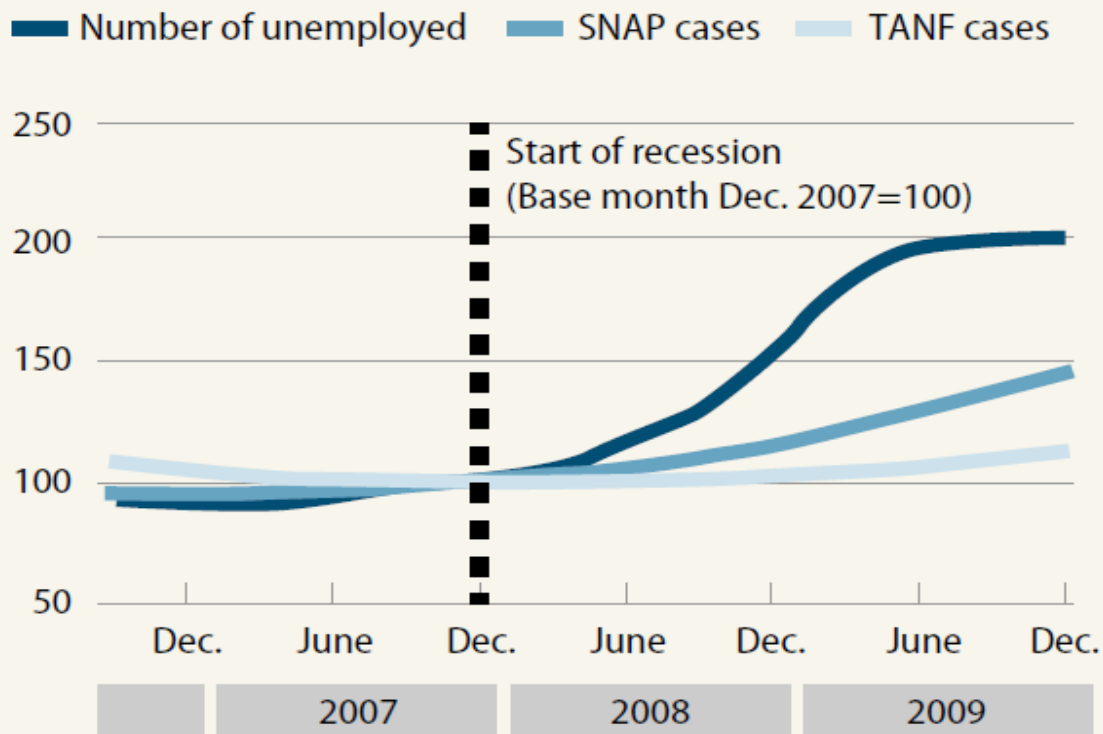
Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Outgoing Rotations Group.

Strong Families



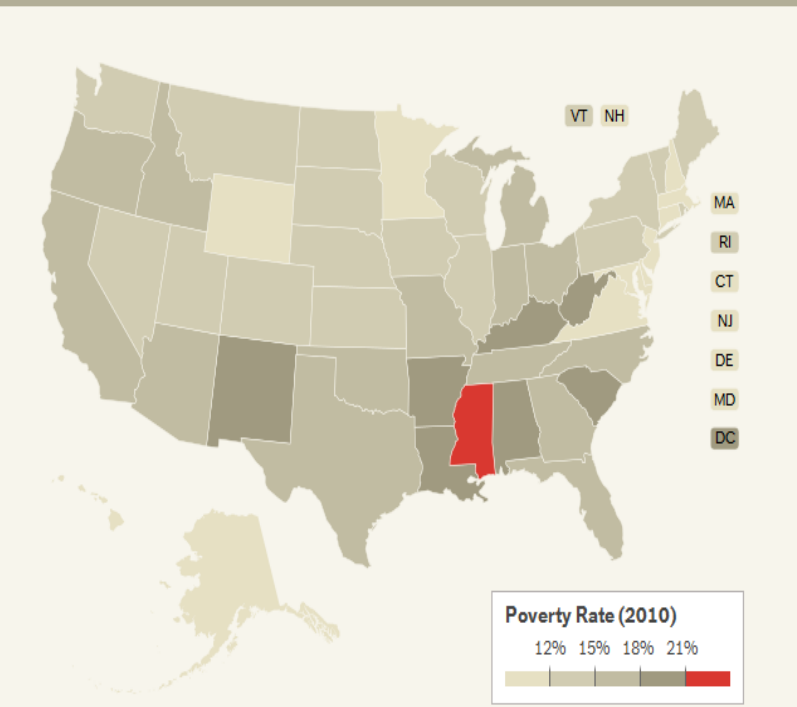
Economic Security

Nationally, TANF has responded only modestly to rising unemployment



15.1%

of Americans live in poverty



of Americans,

16.3%
lack health insurance

41.5
births to every thousand teenage women

9%
young people ages 16-19 are disconnected

37.5%
of 25-34 year olds hold an associate's degree or higher

74.7%
of high school students graduated in four years

We can all share in America's prosperity.
Click on your state to get a progress report on cutting poverty in half in ten years.



Take Action!

Louisiana



Download the [Louisiana factsheet](#) for more information.

Lowest indicators	
Equal Wage Gap	50th
25-34 year-olds with associate's degree or higher	49th
High School Graduation	48th



Rank

CUTTING POVERTY IN HALF

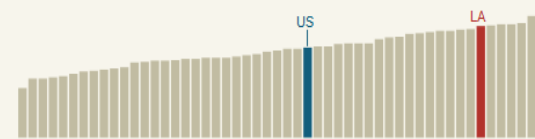
BETTER

WORSE

[Poverty Rate](#)

18.7% 45th

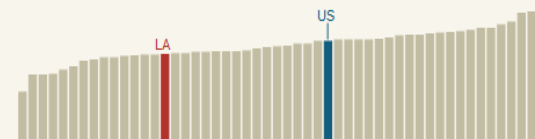
Percentage of people in the state who fell below the official poverty line in 2010



[Food Insecurity Rate](#)

12.6% 15th

Percentage of households unable to acquire enough food to meet the needs of all their members at some point during the year



CREATING GOOD JOBS

BETTER

WORSE

[Unemployment Rate](#)

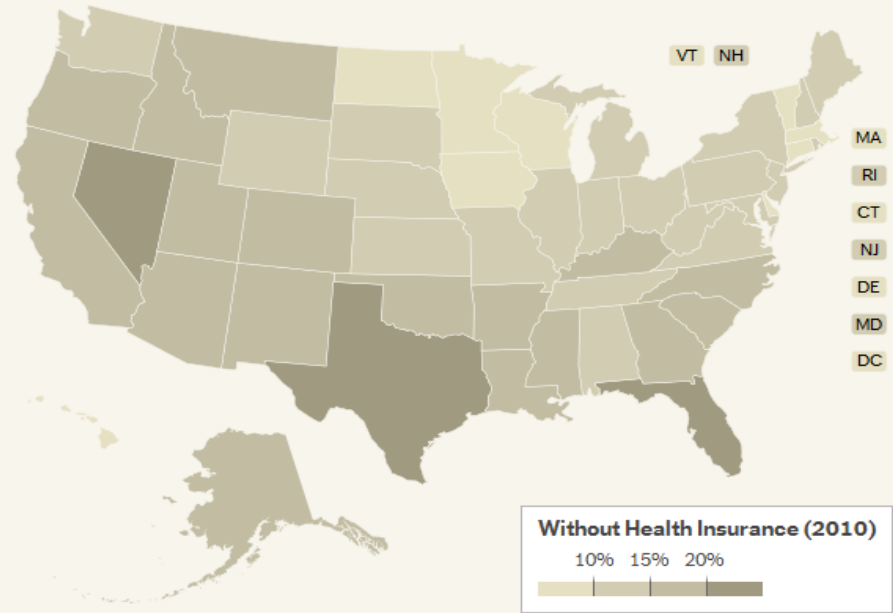
7.5% 14th

Percentage of unemployed workers in the state during an average month in 2010



Without Health Insurance

16.3% of Americans do not have health insurance coverage. Increasing the number of people with health insurance coverage will reduce both economic and health risks for low-income families—factors that contribute to keeping families poor.



State ↑	Without Health Insurance ↓	Rank
Alabama	14.6%	28th
Alaska	19.9%	48th
Arizona	16.9%	36th
Arkansas	17.5%	39th
California	18.5%	44th
Colorado	15.9%	34th
Connecticut	9.1%	5th
Delaware	9.7%	9th
District of Columbia	7.6%	2nd
Florida	21.3%	49th
Georgia	19.7%	47th
Hawaii	7.9%	3rd

The state of poverty and opportunity in **LOUISIANA**



Nationwide, millions of families facing economic hardship and poverty are doing all they can to make ends meet despite today's challenging economy. Many of the 103 million Americans living on less than \$44,700 a year are struggling to pay their rent, keep current with utility payments, cover the cost of health care, and put food on the table.

In Louisiana, families are dealing with these challenges and more on a daily basis. Of the total number of residents in Louisiana in 2010, 18.7 percent lived below the official poverty line, 7.5 percent were unemployed.

To reduce poverty in Louisiana, we need to pursue a comprehensive strategy that creates good jobs, strengthens families, and promotes economic security. Here's how Louisiana is currently faring in these important categories.

Creating good jobs

Increasing the number of workers in good jobs that pay family-supporting wages, and offer



Fast Facts- Good Jobs

Louisiana

- Percentage of employees with paid sick leave: **58**
- High school graduation rate: **63.5** percent
- Percentage of young adults ages 25 to 34 with an associate's degree or higher: **28.6**
- For every dollar earned by a man, a woman doing the same job earns **67.2 cents**

National Average

- Percentage of employees with paid sick leave: **58**
- High school graduation rate: **74.7** percent
- Percentage of young adults ages 25 to 34 with an associate's degree or higher: **37.5**
- For every dollar earned by a man, a woman doing the same job earns **78.6 cents**

Fast Facts – Strong Families

Louisiana

- Percentage of the state population living without health insurance: **17.8**
- Number of births by teenagers (per 1,000): **54.1**
- Number of children living in foster care: **4,453**

National Average

- Percentage of the state population living without health insurance: **16.3**
- Number of births by teenagers (per 1,000): **41.5**



Fast Facts – Economic Security



Louisiana

- Percentage of households that are struggling with hunger: **12.6**
- Percentage of unemployed workers receiving unemployment insurance: **47.2**
- Percentage of unbanked—people without checking or savings accounts: **8.7**

National Average

- Percentage of households that are struggling with hunger: **14.5**
- Percentage of unemployed workers receiving unemployment insurance: **66**
- Percentage of unbanked—people without checking or savings accounts: **7.7**

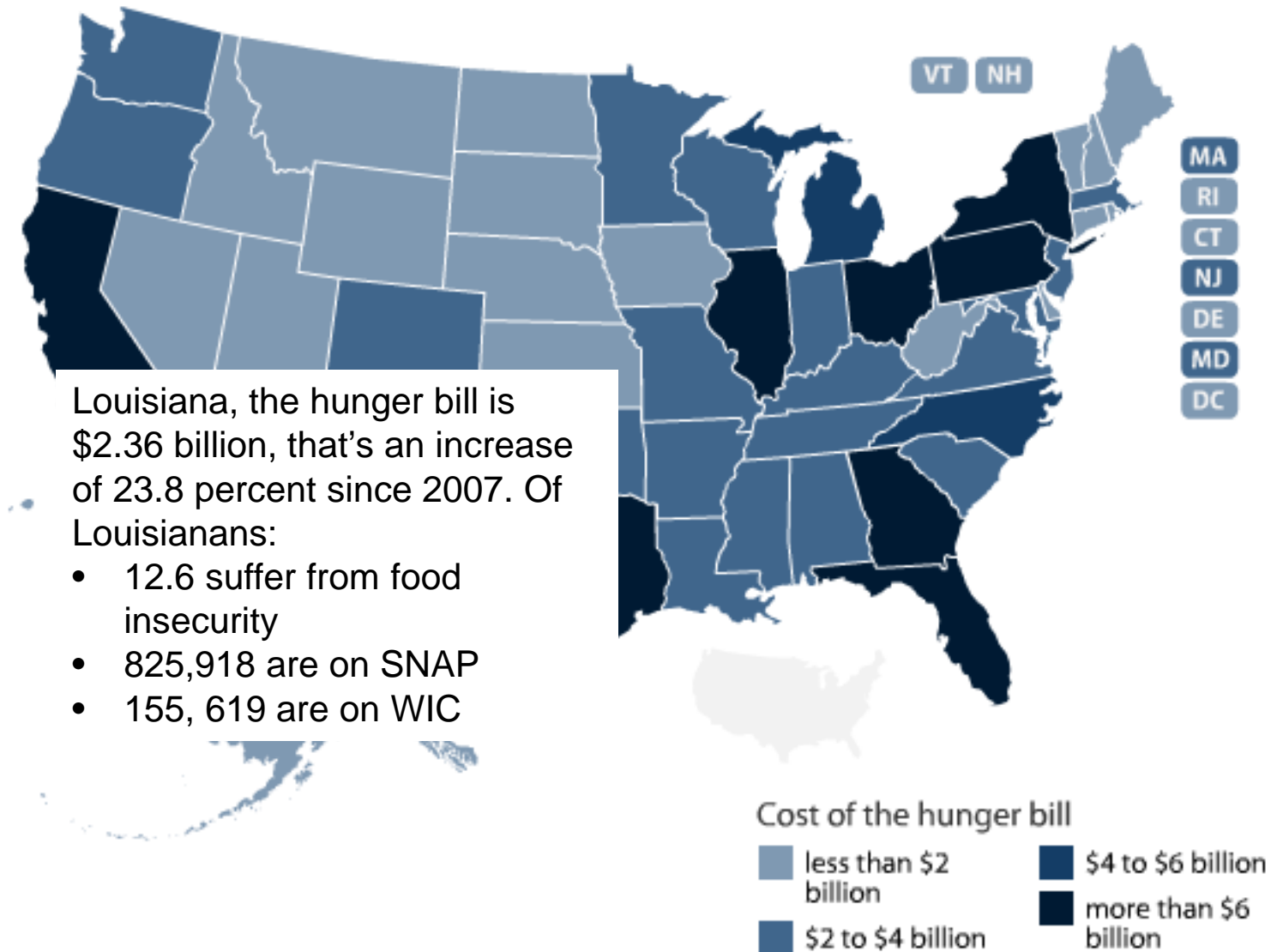


Inaction is costly

- Hunger cost the US \$**167.5 billion** in 2010 working out to:
 - \$542 dollars per person
 - \$1410 per household

This includes increased health costs, lower educational outcome and increased charitable giving
- Adding all Food Insecure and Hungry persons to SNAP would cost \$83 billion; **that's half of the cost of the Hunger Bill**
- Efforts to address hunger should be evaluated against the cost we are already incurring
- To end hunger requires policies that increase employment and wages and modest increases in federal nutrition programs

Your State's Hunger Bill



What's at Stake in Louisiana



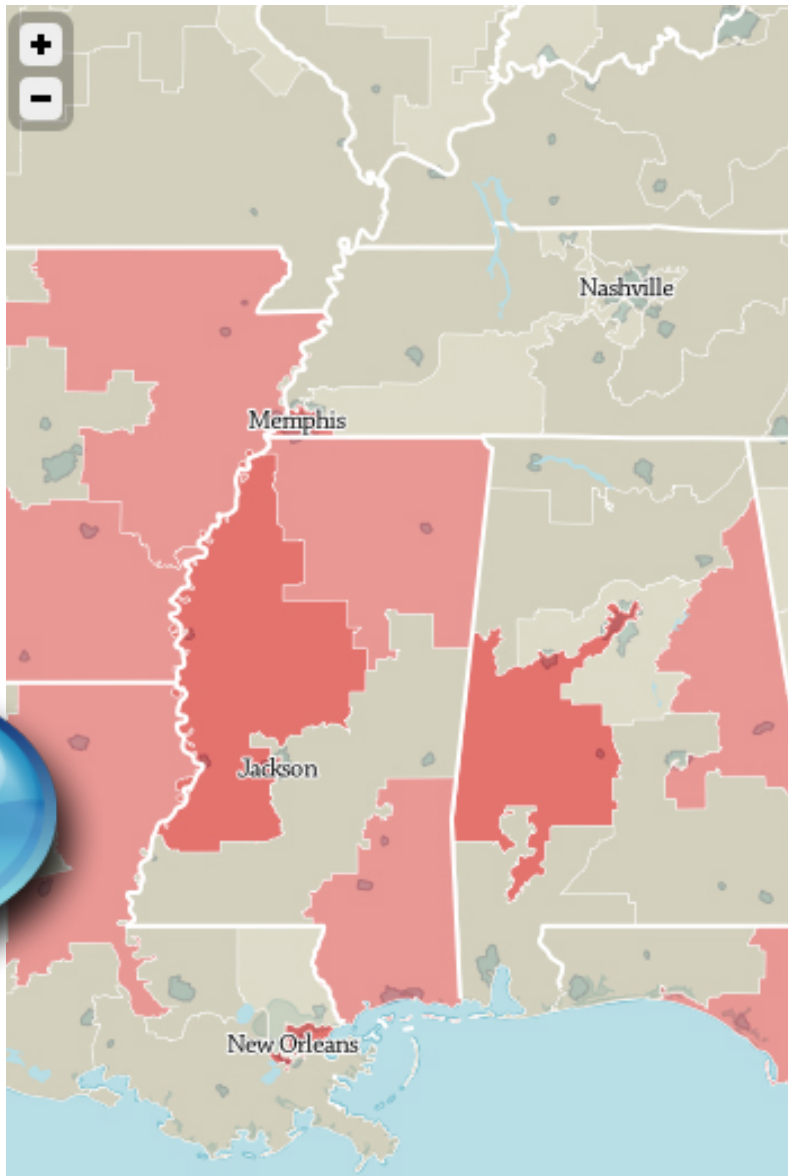
Louisiana

Sen. Mary Landrieu

Sen. David Vitter

Poverty rate	18.7
Population	4,413,890
Occupied Households	1,689,822
People without health insurance	790,987
Percent without health insurance	17.8
Households struggling with hunger	29.50%
Households receiving Social Security	479,517
People receiving Medicare	657,798
People receiving Medicaid	963,625
Students in Headstart (estimated)	23,749

What's at Stake – by congressional district



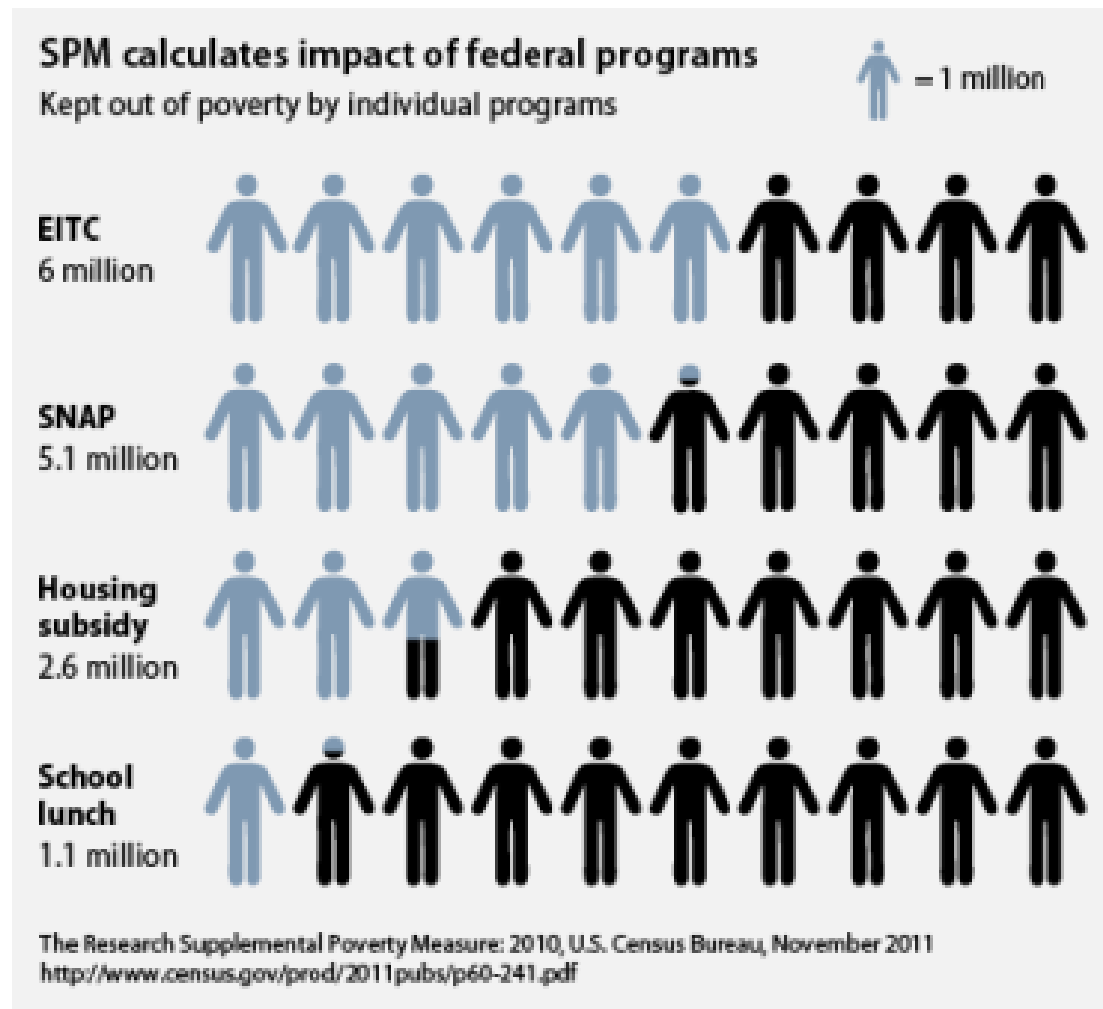
Louisiana CD-5

Rep. Rodney Alexander

Poverty rate	22.1%
Population	640,878
Occupied Households	232,436
People without health insurance	141,795
Households with children struggling against hunger	30.2%
Households receiving SNAP (food stamps)	39,821
Households receiving Social Security	73,508
People receiving Medicare	100,339
People receiving Medicaid	148,423
Students in Headstart (estimated)	4192
Students receiving Pell Grants	20,107



New poverty measure shows impact of federal policies

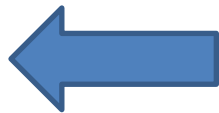


To [to be provided].

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Half in Ten Act of
5 2011”.



6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Poverty can be seen as a deep, structural
9 problem that implicates our value system and our
10 educational and economic institutions.

Contact Information

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