



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT JOBS TO PREVENT DIMINISHED HEALTH MAY REDUCE DISABILITY

There should be jobs available for all who want work and are capable of being trained and willing to work that provides sufficient income to meet their health needs.

A forum was held at the “Economic Policy Institute” on “Spotlight on the Jobs Crisis”. Presenters were economist and employment policy experts from civil rights, minority low income populations and labor.

Summary

A proposal was made for creating jobs, at the forum, using a bottom up approach of specific job identification in local communities reimbursed by from public funds. Other panel members did not refute the top down macro economic approach of a massive fiscal stimulus with guidelines for projects that would be implemented through private contractors. Subsidies associated with wealth creation by the federal government are \$750 billion annually with 70% going to the top 20%. Thus, there are approximately \$500 billion annually that go to the top 20% which could pay for tens of millions of subsistence level jobs to serve unemployed low income workers that benefit the public.

Disability Prevention Issue

There were specific recommendations for the types of public funded jobs that could be provided in the community to prevent diminished health and disability. The morbidity and mortality prevalence in the U.S. compared to other countries, as a result of inadequate public health, is near the bottom. There are jobs that could address public health issues. Some of these jobs associated with the public's health are services: 1) to millions of elderly and disabled individuals without efficient home care, 2) upgrade of traffic and pedestrian controls to prevent unintentional injuries, 3) provision for recreational options in disadvantaged communities to displace harmful social activities of drug abuse, risky sex, sedentary lifestyles 4) prevention of violent behavior, to people with mental disorders associated with self-devaluation related to job loss, 5) educational aids to prevent diminished health of at risk children, 6) initiatives associated with environmental conservation, to clean up and provide surveillance of community toxic waste projects and others. Every local public service job identified in a community that meets a government purpose could be should be funded by the public.

Activity

A letter was written to the leader of a community action group to comment on a proposal for creating public funded jobs to promote the public health

Principle

Jobs should be available, at 60% of median income, to meet the publics' health needs, for all who want work and are capable of being trained and willing to work.