

April 10, 2012

Dear Senator:

The National Women's Law Center expresses its strong support for the Paying a Fair Share Act of 2012 (S. 2230). The bill would take a key step toward restoring fairness to the tax code and balance to fiscal policy by requiring that millionaires and billionaires pay at least a 30 percent tax rate, as many middle-class families whose income comes from work rather than wealth already do.

Women have a particular stake in ensuring that those with the greatest ability to pay contribute their fair share of taxes, because taxes provide the revenues needed to protect and strengthen programs vital to women and their families at every stage of their lives. Women disproportionately rely on programs funded by federal revenues to protect their health, access higher education, obtain quality child care, meet their basic needs, and achieve a secure retirement. But unfair tax preferences for the very wealthy and corporations shortchange needed investments in critical programs. This year, millionaires will receive an average tax cut of \$143,000 as a result of tax cuts enacted since 2001: an amount that could send 18 children to Head Start, provide child care assistance to 24 children, help 37 students attend college with Pell Grants, deliver a meal a day for a year to 249 seniors, or provide 551 people with family planning services.

Investments in programs that could help millions of Americans still struggling to get back on their feet have been frozen or cut in the name of deficit reduction, and deeper cuts are scheduled. While long-term deficit reduction is needed, the burden of deficit reduction so far has fallen entirely on the spending side of the budget. The very wealthiest Americans have not been required to contribute a penny in additional revenues, even though their incomes have soared and tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the wealthiest are a major cause of the nation's large and growing debt.

By imposing a 30 percent minimum tax rate on incomes above \$1 million, with a phase-in between \$1 and \$2 million, S. 2230 would promote a fairer tax system and help finance the investments needed to strengthen our economy and expand opportunity and economic security for women and their families.

We urge you stand up for women and their families and vote for S. 2230, the Paying a Fair Share Act of 2012.

Sincerely,



Nancy Duff Campbell
Co-President



Joan Entmacher
Vice President, Family Economic Security