NAN “Fiscal Cliff” Action Alert

The United States Congress is currently facing an end-of-year deadline or “fiscal cliff”. This fiscal cliff threatens some of the programs that African-Americans and Latinos rely on. These ethnic groups will face disproportionately negative impacts if there is any change in spending when it relates to programs like Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, or any across-the-board program cuts.

WE MUST TELL CONGRESS THAT WE NEED THEM TO ACT ON BEHALF OF MINORITIES, THE MIDDLE CLASS AND THE POOR!

If the country reaches the “fiscal cliff” a combination of expiring tax cuts, automatic across-the-board government spending cuts affecting the government’s spending, and the end to the Federal Emergency Unemployment Insurance Program will become effective January 1, 2013. Tax cuts have saved Americans thousands per person due to cuts in payroll taxes, added tax deductions, and reduction in tax rates for individuals and business. The tax cuts, many of which were enacted under President George W. Bush, will expire at the end of the year, resulting in higher taxes for nearly every American and small business. The increases could escalate taxes on the middle class by $2,000. Blacks and Latinos are the longest-term unemployed in this country and the cancellation of unemployment insurance would be devastating in our communities. We need to maintain tax cuts for the middle-class and working poor and make the wealthy pay their fair share.

With the national economy going in the right direction, National Action Network believes that an agreement must be reached to ensure that our Congress does not destroy the progress made in the past couple of years. We have to fight to make sure that taxes do not increase on the lower and middle class. However, we believe in an effort to help cut the country’s deficit and to help prevent some of the spending cuts, the wealthiest 2% of the country should pay their fair share by going back to the rates they were paying prior to President Bush’s tax cuts. It is unthinkable that many of the people in the top 2% pay a lower tax rate than people in the middle class and this must be rectified. We also have to urge Congress to negotiate on potential cuts in government spending and not allow automatic cuts which will drastically affect minorities and the lower and middle class to take effect. We cannot allow the termination of unemployment insurance: minorities and the low to middle class are more affected by long term unemployment and if these benefits are no longer available many will have no means to provide for themselves or their family.

The 112th Congress should not want be remembered as the congress that failed to reach a new agreement on the federal budget, forcing the country to fall off the “cliff”. It must be their last goal to work with all involved, no matter the party affiliation, and come to a fair and equal conclusion which will benefit the United States of America. Please contact your Representative and/or Senator by phone, email, letter, fax, or in-person and insist that they focus on the economic prosperity and fairness of the country and find a way to prevent the impeding “fiscal cliff”.

Please click here to find the contact information for your Representative and here to find the contact information for your U.S. Senators.