

**Letter from 110 Organizations in Support of Sen. Whitehouse's  
"Paying a Fair Share Act of 2012" (S. 2230)**

April 13, 2012

Dear Senator:

We write to ask you to support Senator Sheldon Whitehouse's "Paying a Fair Share Act of 2012," S. 2230, legislation that would address an array of tax loopholes that allows some millionaires and billionaires to pay a lower effective tax rate than working families.

S. 2230 implements the so-called "Buffett Rule," proposed by billionaire investor Warren Buffett, who pays a lower effective tax rate than his secretary. The legislation would require that all households with incomes above \$1 million a year pay at least a 30 percent minimum federal effective tax rate on income, a critical first step in creating a more equitable tax code.

This should not be controversial legislation. We believe that a basic premise of the promise of America – no matter what your political party – is that everyone should contribute their fair share. The richest Americans have benefitted from enormous increases in wealth in recent decades, while everyone else has struggled to make ends meet. S. 2230 represents a modest but important step for addressing rising inequality.

There is no reason that Washington should subsidize millionaires and billionaires. Continuing the array of tax loopholes that the Buffett Rule seeks to address adds to the deficit and requires middle-class Americans to make up the difference – either through higher taxes or through reductions in funding for Medicare and Medicaid, public education, researching new medical cures, or rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure.

S. 2230 is a *first step* to creating a fairer tax system, which provides a clear choice: Do you want a nation where millionaires pay lower taxes than middle-class Americans, or an America where everyone contributes their fair share? Two-out-of-three Americans support the latter. We urge you to join with them by supporting S. 2230 and by allowing the measure to get an up-or-down vote.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women  
Action North Carolina  
ACTION United  
AFL-CIO  
AFSCME  
Alliance for a Just Society  
Alliance for Retired Americans  
American Federation of Government Employees  
American Federation of Teachers  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Campaign for America's Future  
Campaign for Community Change  
Catholics United

Center for American Progress Action Fund  
Champaign County Health Care Consumers  
Children's Alliance  
Citizens for Tax Justice  
CLASP (Center for Law and Social Policy)  
CO Progressive Coalition  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Coastal Community Action (NC)  
Common Cause  
Community Action Agency  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc.  
Community Voices Heard  
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO  
Disabled Rights Action Committee  
Disciples Justice Action Network  
Economic Opportunity Institute  
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon  
Education Equals Making Community Connections  
Every Child Matters  
Faith in Public Life  
Gray Panthers  
Health Care for America Now  
Heaven In View Outreach Ministry  
IIRON  
Institute for Wisconsin's Future  
International Brotherhood of Teamsters  
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement  
Legal Momentum  
Litchfield Public Schools Early Childhood Programs  
Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative  
Main Street Alliance  
Maine People's Alliance/Maine People's Resource Center  
Maryland National Organization for Women  
Metanoia Centers for Innovation  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network  
National Association for Hispanic Elderly  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Council of Women's Organizations  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Education Association  
National Education Association-Retired  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Organization for Women  
National People's Action

National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK  
New York State Alliance for Retired Americans  
New Yorkers for Fiscal Fairness  
NH Citizens Alliance for Action  
Northside P.O.W.E.R.  
Partners in Counseling  
People For the American Way  
PICO National Network  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Progress Texas  
Progressive Congress  
Progressive Democrats of America  
ProgressOhio  
Promise the Children  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition  
Rappahannock United Way  
RESULTS  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
Service Employees International Union  
Sisters of St. Francis  
Sisters of St. Joseph  
Social Security Disability Coalition  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees  
Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice  
Tax Fairness Oregon  
Tax Justice Network USA  
The Arc of Alameda County  
The Arc of the United States  
UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO  
United Auto Workers  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
United Electrical Workers Union (UE)  
United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 400  
United Food and Commercial Workers  
United for a Fair Economy  
United Steelworkers  
USAction  
Virginia Organizing  
VOCAL-NY (formerly NYC AIDS Housing Network)  
Voices For Progress  
WHEAT  
Wider Opportunities for Women  
Working America  
Xaverian Brothers  
YWCA USA