

1
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
3 PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE JOINT COUNCIL COMMITTEES
4 ON PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
5 AND LAW & GOVERNMENT

6 - - -
7 Room 400, City Hall
8 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
9 Monday, November 16, 1998
10 10:15 a.m.
11 - - -

12 RESOLUTION NO. 960671 - A resolution calling for a
13 full and comprehensive joint investigation by the
14 Committees on Law & Government and on Health &
15 Human Services into the exact ways in which the
16 recently enacted so-called "welfare reform"
17 legislation will impact the citizens of
18 Philadelphia, and how the City can best exercise
19 all powers that it may have in easing the burdens
20 imposed on helpless citizens under the new law,
21 including pressing for positive implementing
22 legislation at the State level, and finding ways
23 in which the City government, using subsidies that
24 may be available under the new law, can provide
25 jobs for welfare recipients at a living wage.

18 PRESENT: COUNCILWOMAN MARIAN B. TASCO, Co-Chair
19 COUNCILMAN DAVID COHEN, Co-Chair
20 COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
21 COUNCILMAN ANGEL L. ORTIZ

22 - - -
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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The joint committees
4 on Public Health & Human Services and the on Law &
5 Government is now in session. This is a
6 continuation of the recessed hearing that was held
7 last week.

8 The resolution calls for a full and
9 comprehensive joint investigation by the
10 Committees on Law & Government and on Health &
11 Human Services into the exact ways in which the
12 recently enacted so-called "welfare reform"
13 legislation will impact the citizens of
14 Philadelphia, .

15 I want to call special attention to the
16 words "exact ways." We would like to have very
17 specific testimony in preference to generalized
18 statements because what this committee hopes to do
19 is be a continuous monitoring committee to make
20 certain that no matter what happens, there are no
21 Philadelphians that are left without food,
22 shelter, or the basic necessities of life.

23 Before we proceed further, Councilman
24 Ortiz has a letter that he wishes to read into the
25 record. Council Ortiz.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you, Mr.

3 Chairman.

4 This a letter I wrote to Secretary
5 Heller after her testimony and it says (reading):

6 Please accept my gratitude for your
7 appearance at our hearing on welfare reform last
8 Tuesday. Your testimony greatly assisted us in
9 understanding the State's view of the current
10 status of the welfare reform process.

11 As you know, this issue is multifaceted
12 and complex, and notwithstanding your helpful
13 testimony, there is still much that is unclear
14 about what the City face on and after March the
15 3rd of next year. For this reason, my staff has
16 prepared a list of basic questions enclosed with
17 this letter, which we'd much appreciate your
18 answering at your earliest convenience.

19 Thank you for your cooperation. We're
20 looking forward to hearing from you regarding the
21 enclosed materials.

22 I want to read the questions into the
23 record so that we're very clear as to what are the
24 answers that we're asking and seeking from the
25 State.

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2 How many slots are available for job
3 preparation programs other than the State's Quick
4 Attachment Program in Philadelphia?

5 Number two, how many households
6 statewide and in Philadelphia will reach the
7 24-month time limit on March 3, 1999?

8 How much additional families will hit
9 the deadline in April, May, June, July, August,
10 September, and by December of '99?

11 Are individuals who are not proficient
12 in English required to conduct job searches?

13 Does DPW have any programs specifically
14 geared to serve non-English-speaking clients? Are
15 any such programs being created?

16 What can a person who has searched
17 diligently for work but not found work do to avoid
18 a cutoff of benefits after 24 months?

19 Is the option given and the answers to
20 the above questions available to as many people
21 who need it, or is there a limited number of
22 spots?

23 Will the Department back a legislative
24 change or make available additional funds if it
25 appears that not above slots under the above

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2 program are available?

3 Will the Department, if not enough
4 slots are available, support a change in the law
5 or applicable regulations that would continue
6 benefits for the children of recipients who can't
7 find work?

8 What is the State doing to help ease
9 the transportation problem concerning access to
10 the work in the region for Philadelphia's welfare
11 recipients?

12 What provisions are being made to
13 identify and help those who have special
14 circumstances that prevents them from working 20
15 hours per week? For example, the homeless, those
16 with disabled children, kinship caregivers,
17 victims of domestic violence, etc.?

18 Does DPW plan to exempt any groups from
19 compliance with the work requirements set forth in
20 Act 35 and provide the number of people who have
21 been provided exemptions to date broken down by
22 category of exemption?

23 What if an insufficient number of child
24 care slots are available? Will exemptions given
25 on that basis?

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2 What else are you expecting of parents
3 to do if he or she simply can't find anyone to
4 take care of their children?

5 We understand that there's a "Last
6 Resort Program" being developed for persons unable
7 to find work within 24 months, and that involves
8 some kinds of employment with a nonprofit agency
9 with respect to that program.

10 Will guidelines be issued regarding the
11 kind of work that will be acceptable? What kind
12 of reporting from participating organizations will
13 be required?

14 What kind of financial aid will be
15 available to the institutions to defray the cost
16 of supervision, office space, equipment, other
17 overhead, and supplementary wages required under
18 the minimum wage law?

19 How will the recipients know which
20 agencies are eligible for this program? And what
21 kind of work will they be expected to do? Will it
22 be structured so as to allow the recipients to get
23 maximum earned income tax credit available under
24 the law? And will they be covered under the
25 Workman's Compensation law?

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2 These are the questions that have been
3 sent to the Secretary. Hopefully, she will answer
4 these questions within the week so we can make it
5 as part of our overall report.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Councilman Ortiz, I
7 suggest that a copy of that letter be sent to the
8 appropriate departments of City government so that
9 we can determine to what extent the City
10 government is seeking to get those answers from
11 the State. We were told by the mayor that the
12 City departments are working very closely with the
13 State. And if the City departments have any
14 recommendations to make for a modification or
15 additional questions to be raised, we would be
16 very appreciative.

17 The first witnesses are going to be Mr.
18 Morelli, Vice President of Institutional
19 Advancement, from Peirce Junior College. Is he
20 here?

21 (Mr. Morelli is not present.)

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Not here?

23 The next witness will be Thomas Payne
24 Cronin, President of District Council 47.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Cronin, we're

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2 pleased you're here. Please come forward and
3 bring anybody you wish to have join you.

4 (Mr. Cronin comes forward.)

5 MR. CRONIN: Good morning.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Good to see you.

7 Please be good enough for the record to identify
8 yourself and then proceed.

9 MR. CRONIN: My name is Thomas Payne
10 Cronin, President of AFSCME District Council 47.

11 For the past year, advocates of the
12 poor, disadvantaged, and dispossessed have been
13 warned to watch the doomsday rhetoric. We have
14 been admonished by the Ridge administration and
15 others to be responsible with our comments and
16 reasonable with our expectations regarding the
17 March 1999 cutoff date for thousands of
18 Philadelphia households receiving assistance.

19 However, it is clear that any
20 reasonable comments must fully go the distance in
21 describing the potential disaster that
22 Philadelphia could face in a few short months.
23 The dimensions of the impending crisis are truly
24 staggering. The population in Philadelphia on
25 public assistance exceeds the total population of

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2 Scranton, Harrisburg, and Lancaster combined. The
3 population in Philadelphia near or below the
4 poverty line is approximately equal to that of the
5 City of Pittsburgh.

6 We have become a tale of two cities.
7 One that could share the extravagant deal with the
8 Kvaerner Company to create 950 high-paying jobs;
9 and one that must worry about housing and
10 medicine. One that could happily anticipate the
11 next Republican National Convention; and one that
12 must make impossible choices regarding their
13 children. And one that could take great pride in
14 the development of a new center celebrating the
15 United States Constitution; and one so much
16 captive of abject poverty that they cannot feel
17 the majesty of the Constitution in any part of
18 their lives, .

19 AFSCME, the American Federation of
20 State, County, and Municipal Employees, of which
21 District Council 47 is a part, is helping to lead
22 the effort to cushion the effects of a dramatic
23 and extreme welfare revisions collectively known
24 as "welfare reform." Our 1.3 million members are,
25 for the most part, professionals in government and

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2 health care, and we have dedicated ourselves to
3 making America's great urban centers prosper and
4 reclaim the role they formerly played as the
5 engine for national achievement.

6 We are working in communities
7 throughout the country to pass living wage
8 legislation to help break the cycle of an elevated
9 poverty that millions of Americans have had to
10 exist in. Jobs without hope, meaning or a fair
11 wage only break the spirit and plunder the dreams
12 of children. However, it must be stated that we
13 cannot allow the most vulnerable people in our
14 society to be exploited by those who would attempt
15 to destroy collective bargaining by pitting those
16 on assistance against a unionized workforce.

17 In the last century, J. Gould, the
18 infamous robber baron, openly boasted that half of
19 labor could be pitted against the other half at
20 any time. Unscrupulous designs will not solve the
21 problem but only serve to destroy confidence in
22 our ability to deal with the pending crisis.

23 The Ridge administration must be
24 flexible. They must have requirements that are --
25 they have requirements that are among the most

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2 severe in the country regarding how recipients of
3 assistance can satisfy their obligations doomsday
4 scenarios are not irresponsible in Philadelphia in
5 November 1998; they are the most responsible way
6 we have to remind State government of their
7 financial and moral obligation to nearly 200,000
8 State residents.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

12 Any questions for Mr. Cronin?

13 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Yes.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Ortiz.

15 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Cronin, in terms
16 of the plans that the City or the State may have
17 for the welfare recipients as they are coming off
18 welfare, have you been part of any conversations?
19 Are you a part of any planning group that is
20 working either with the City or with any State
21 committee to see how we can integrate this
22 workforce into the general workforce without
23 pitting them against union labor and being used to
24 replace union labor, as they have done in New
25 York?

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2 MR. CRONIN: Well, first of all, let me
3 say that we've taken the position in the
4 Philadelphia AFL-CIO, at the urging of District
5 Council 47 that we develop a policy with respect
6 to welfare reform. That policy has been developed
7 and adopted by the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO,
8 and essentially, that policy states -- just to
9 paraphrase it, we don't want the same thing to
10 happen in Philadelphia that happened in New York
11 where unions are pitted against the community and
12 pitted against one another. That the position
13 that organized labor should be taking is one that
14 where welfare recipients are welcomed into the
15 jobs, that they are covered -- and this is very
16 important -- by collective bargaining agreements,
17 that they are subject to OSHA laws and all other
18 applicable sections of the collective bargaining
19 agreements.

20 In addition to that, that they should
21 not be used for -- to have welfare recipients to
22 supplant current workers in the City of
23 Philadelphia. We've had meetings with the mayor.
24 When I say "we," I mean AFSCME, District Council
25 33 and 47, along with our international, to stress

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2 that position.

3 The mayor has indicated that he agrees
4 with what we're saying, what we're asking, and he
5 doesn't want the same procedures to happen in
6 Philadelphia that happened in New York. And that
7 further, he said to us that he welcomed any ideas,
8 that we could communicate those ideas to Donna
9 Cooper of jobs that could be created within City
10 government that would be new jobs, not the same
11 types of jobs that our people are doing now. And
12 District Council 47, as a matter of fact, has made
13 several suggestions to the mayor and to Donna
14 where new positions could be translated.

15 As a matter of fact, Councilman, one of
16 those new positions that we suggested would be in
17 the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations
18 where there's certainly, in a cosmopolitan city
19 like we have, a need for additional people to do
20 translating, whether in Spanish, Mung, and a whole
21 variety of languages that we think are very
22 important.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

24 Generally speaking, from what I've read in The New
25 York Times and various magazines, the New York

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2 experiment is looked upon as a forward-looking
3 step. I take it from your statement that it's
4 not. Could you be more specific as to the dangers
5 that you think we ought to avoid here based upon
6 your knowledge of the New York situation?

7 MR. CRONIN: The New York Times made
8 that statement?

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I believe there was
10 a news story in which what occurred in New York
11 was regarded as a very forward-looking approach.

12 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: What are the
13 positive aspects of welfare reform?

14 MR. CRONIN: From everything that I
15 hear from --

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: That may be have
17 been because The New York Times may be interested
18 in breaking the unions; I understand that.

19 But I'd like to have your expert
20 opinion.

21 MR. CRONIN: The only thing that I can
22 say is that everything that we hear from people in
23 City Council in New York and everything that we
24 hear from District Council 37, which is our
25 counterpart in New York City, a whole variety of

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2 services that they provide, is that the welfare
3 system there is being used and welfare recipients
4 are being used to supplant the current city
5 workforce, which means cutting their wages,
6 cutting their benefits, weakening, severely
7 weakening the union, and in many case, essentially
8 replacing entire groups of city employees with
9 welfare recipients, not giving them the necessary
10 training that they need, not giving them the
11 necessary education.

12 And the whole thing, in our opinion, in
13 New York is a disaster, not to mention the
14 tensions that have been exacerbated by the
15 conflict between the community and the unions, and
16 union on union.

17 So if you want a police that divides
18 people, if you want a policy that really is a
19 cruel joke, you adopt the policy that they have in
20 New York City. It's a disgrace.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

22 Councilwoman Tasco?

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

24 What role -- how does all of that tie
25 in with the civil service system in New York? I

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2 mean, they are bringing on welfare recipients.

3 Are they subjected to the civil service rules and
4 regulations?

5 MR. CRONIN: Not -- as far as I know,
6 they are not. They've just essentially ignored
7 the civil service system in New York. And, of
8 course, the civil service system in New York, much
9 like the civil service system in Philadelphia,
10 where you have a commission, is political. So its
11 appointees are there on behalf of the mayor.

12 And if you have a mayor who's
13 interested in not doing the right things, as my
14 prejudices would indicate, then it's very easy to
15 do that because your civil service system just
16 acts as a rubber stamp for the mayor.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Is there any
18 written analysis by your union of what's happening
19 in New York, any documentation that we could
20 secure?

21 MR. CRONIN: Yes. I can certainly ask
22 that. Our international union has done extensive
23 research and has published articles on the system
24 in New York. I can ask them to give me a copy of
25 that, and I could forward that to you,

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2 Councilwoman.

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Yes. Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, we think it
5 would be good to make those available to all
6 members of City Council because I think it's very
7 important that they understand that New York is
8 moving in the wrong direction and not in the right
9 direction.

10 In the public opinion in Philadelphia,
11 there's often an idea that Mayor Giuliani of New
12 York and Mayor Rendell in Philadelphia think alike
13 on issues like this, and I think it's just
14 important in getting the record clear and so that
15 we're prepared in advance to avoid certain
16 dangers. So I think that would be very good idea
17 to send it to all Members of City Council.

18 And if at some later time, because
19 these hearings are going to be continuing, we
20 would welcome the surveillance by District Council
21 47 and 33, where appropriate, and the FOP and the
22 firefighters, to make certain that nothing
23 approaching New York's situation develops here.

24 MR. CRONIN: Well, we'll continue to
25 certainly monitor that situation from our vantage

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2 point and I'll be more than happy to provide every
3 Councilperson with a copy of any research that
4 we've done in New York.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right, thank you
6 very much.

7 MR. CRONIN: Thank you.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Councilman Ortiz?

9 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Ed Rendell made a
10 statement here the other day, and it was printed
11 in The Inquirer yesterday, and I'm very glad that
12 The Inquirer and the Daily News are here.

13 But he made a statement that,
14 generally, the media has been either ignoring or
15 not communicating the gravity of this issue to the
16 people of Philadelphia. And I'm glad at least
17 that the print media has been responsible enough.

18 But, as you can see, the TV media and
19 the radio media are not here. And I agree with
20 the mayor in what he said, that this is probably
21 the most important issue that will be facing the
22 City in the next five years, and not enough
23 attention and education is going on by the media
24 to be able to educate our populace about what lies
25 ahead.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you for that
3 comment.

4 I must admit that I'm a bit confused by
5 the mayor's testimony here last week. He seemed
6 to be extremely approving of what the State was
7 doing 'cause I just heard compliment after
8 compliment from him as to the activities of the
9 State. And then, at the same time, he seemed to
10 indicate that nobody was paying any attention to
11 what he thought was going to be a disaster hitting
12 Philadelphia.

13 At some point I hope there will be
14 clarification. And along that line, Donna Cooper
15 stated that she could not be here today but that
16 there would be somebody from her office here. Is
17 there such a person here from Donna Cooper's
18 office?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'm going to ask the
21 staff to put in a call to her office so that we
22 know her office is getting this information that's
23 being produced today.

24 Secondly, we were promised by the
25 Deputy Secretary of Welfare, Sherry Heller, that

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2 there would be two or three representatives of the
3 State here today at this hearing. Are there
4 representatives of the State present?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I guess I see
7 no response to that. Is someone coming forward?
8 No, I guess not.

9 So I don't know how the State expects
10 to be informed of the problems and be in a
11 position to deal with them if it doesn't have
12 representation at hearings like this.

13 And I think the committee will want to
14 communicate, and I would urge Commissioner Reeves
15 that your office or Donna Cooper's office or the
16 mayor's office, one of the three offices,
17 communicate your concern as well as the
18 committee's concern about the absence of State
19 officials at a public hearing in City Council
20 dealing with this very urgent issue.

21 The next group of witnesses will be a
22 panel, and I'm going to ask for three or four
23 people to sit at the desk, and then the others to
24 sit in back and they will come forward.

25 Rose Brandt, the Mayor's Commission on

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2 Literacy, is she here? Please come forward.

3 JoAnne Weinberger, the Center for

4 Literacy, please come forward also.

5 Wayne Branch, the Vice President for

6 Student Affairs at the Community College of

7 Philadelphia, please come forward.

8 Carol Goertzel, the Executive Director

9 of Women's Association for Women's alternatives.

10 And then I'm going to ask the next two

11 people to just take seats within the railing and

12 be available. Hannah Oakman from Personal Power

13 Now, a former recipient.

14 And Edward Schwartz, President of the

15 Institute for the Study of Civic Values, from whom

16 we heard at great length last week. Mr. Schwartz,

17 I hope you're not the cause for the absence of the

18 State representatives here.

19 (Laughter.)

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: We thought your

21 questions were very intelligent and went to the

22 heart of the matter, and I'm just concerned that

23 that might have been too much.

24 MR. SCHWARTZ: It wouldn't have been

25 the first time, Councilman.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right. Who
3 wants to proceed first? Please identify yourself
4 for the record and then go ahead.

5 MS. BRANDT: Good morning. My name is
6 Rose Brandt. I'm the Executive Director of the
7 Mayor's Commission on Literacy.

8 The mission of the Commission is to
9 ensure that quality adult basics education and
10 literacy services are available to all adults in
11 need of those services in Philadelphia, and those
12 services are provided in over 400 sites around the
13 City.

14 I'd like to begin a discussion that
15 this panel will continue about the relationship
16 between education, work and self-sufficiency, and
17 their impact on the lives of the individuals and
18 families in Philadelphia as well as on the
19 well-being of the City as a whole.

20 We know that sweeping changes in
21 welfare lives have required that recipients move
22 from welfare to work. While this is a change that
23 welfare recipients would like to make a great
24 number of these individuals are ill-equipped to
25 make the transition to work. There is an enormous

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2 mismatch between the skills of those who are
3 seeking jobs and the jobs that are available.

4 So what is the educational need?

5 Recent national and state surveys show that close
6 to half of the adults in this country and in
7 Pennsylvania lack adequate literacy skills to be
8 effective in the workplace. The surveys to which
9 I refer, the National Adult Literacy Survey and
10 the Pennsylvania counterpart, ask participants to
11 respond to a series of common literacy tasks such
12 as reading a bus schedule, using an automatic
13 teller machine, or understanding a judge's
14 instructions to a jury.

15 The results were divided into five
16 levels, with those at the lowest level of literacy
17 being Level 1, and those with the highest literacy
18 skills being Level 5. The study found that over
19 20 percent of American adults are functioning at
20 the lowest literacy level. This means they cannot
21 usually perform tasks such finding an intersection
22 on a street map, locating eligibility from a table
23 of employee benefits, identifying and entering
24 background information on a Social Security card
25 applications, or totaling the entry on a bank

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2 deposit slip.

3 Additionally, close to 30 percent of
4 adults scored in Level 2 in literacy skills.
5 These individuals have considerable difficulty
6 carrying out tasks requiring them to use lengthy
7 texts or to do math calculations that involve more
8 than one step.

9 Perhaps just as concerning as the
10 number of adults with limited literacy skills is
11 the fact that most of the individuals in Level 1
12 and Level 2 of literacy did not think of
13 themselves as having limited literacy skills.

14 Now, this is specifically related to
15 our concerns today in the following ways. Nearly
16 70 percent of adults on public assistance have
17 limited literacy skills; that's literacy skills in
18 the bottom two literacy levels. Also, 70 percent
19 of individuals living in poverty and 70 percent of
20 those who are unemployed are in the bottom two
21 literacy levels.

22 Education is a key piece of the picture
23 for individuals moving from welfare to work,
24 specifically if we are referring to work that
25 leads to self-sufficiency.

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2 So what's the scope of the need in
3 Philadelphia? Forty-eight percent of
4 Pennsylvania's welfare recipients live in
5 Philadelphia. That's up from 38 percent four
6 years ago. In Philadelphia, 34 percent of adults
7 in the City lack a high school diploma. Of these,
8 over 400,000 adults who have less than a high
9 school diploma, fewer than 2,000 receive a GED --
10 that's a high school equivalency degree -- each
11 year. Nearly 10 percent of adults 18 or over have
12 less than a 9th-grade education. And mothers
13 between the ages of 17 and 21 have, on average,
14 below a 6th-grade reading level.

15 So how is the education level related
16 to welfare? Education does make a difference. It
17 has always been a factor in an individual's
18 ability to get hold and advance an employment that
19 is self-sustaining. If we analyze past welfare
20 patterns, they show that over 60 percent of those
21 who spend 5 years on welfare have less than a high
22 school diploma; while over 65 percent of those on
23 welfare who have a high school diploma or a GED
24 leave welfare and become self-sufficient within 2
25 years. That's the pattern of welfare as it has

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2 existed to date.

3 So those with educational skills can
4 make it under the current rules. In fact,
5 historically, they have moved from welfare to work
6 in a relatively short period of time. But what
7 about the others, what about those with limited
8 literacy skills?

9 If we focus on one area on the First
10 Congressional District in Philadelphia, 76 percent
11 of the adults have limited literacy adults. And
12 42 percent of the adults are in the first, the
13 bottom literacy level. Less than 33 percent are
14 high school graduates. Put another way, that
15 means that over 70 percent have less than a high
16 school diploma. And only about 6 percent have a
17 bachelor's degree.

18 What are the implications of all of
19 this for employment and self-sufficiency? Here
20 again, we can look at existing or patterns or at
21 past patterns. Adults in the lowest literacy
22 level worked only half as many weeks a year as
23 those in the highest three literacy levels. Those
24 with literacy skills in the lowest level earned a
25 weekly median income of about \$240 compared to

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2 \$650 for those in the highest literacy level. And
3 when the incomes of men and women are compared by
4 levels of educational attainment, the comparison
5 is even starker.

6 So how did we get here? Many
7 individuals on public assistance were once
8 gainfully employed. Philadelphia had thriving
9 factories, textile mills, and assembly plants.
10 These offered jobs that individuals with limited
11 literacy skills could get, hold and support a
12 family on. But the world has changed. The jobs
13 currently available in the workplace are at a
14 higher end of literacy.

15 Over the last ten years, the city has
16 lost over 100,000 jobs. And from 1982 to 1992,
17 the earning of those without a high school diploma
18 has dropped 12 percent. Education needs to
19 prepare individuals for jobs that are available
20 today and for jobs for the future.

21 Support services for those in
22 educational programs are also important. Most
23 adults leave educational programs for reasons
24 unrelated to the educational program. These
25 include change in employment situations, child

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2 care and transportation needs. A strong predictor
3 of persistence in educational programs is the
4 availability of and use of support services.

5 So what can we do? Donna Cooper
6 mentioned the other day stretching the definitions
7 to include educational activities. States can
8 count adult education towards the work requirement
9 for hours beyond the initial 20 required per
10 week. Pennsylvania should include basic education
11 as a work-related activity.

12 Also, we need to get the word out.
13 Welfare recipients are unaware or uninformed about
14 the changes. Many are not aware of their own
15 limited skills. There are services available that
16 many are not aware of them or don't know how to
17 participate in them.

18 Also, quality support services are
19 necessary if individuals are going to be able to
20 continue in educational programs, especially as
21 they learn to manage the very demands of family,
22 work, and education.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

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2 MS. WEINBERGER: Thank you. I am
3 Joanne Weinberger. I'm the Executive Director of
4 the Center for Literacy. And I would like to
5 thank you for holding these hearings and listening
6 to the needs of TANF recipients.

7 As Rose has informed us, the
8 educational needs of Philadelphia adults are very
9 strong. The Center for Literacy is the State's
10 largest provider of community-based services.
11 Last year, we served over 2700 adults throughout
12 the City of Philadelphia, 47 percent of whom were
13 TANF recipients.

14 Out of these recipients, 52 of them
15 read below the 2nd-grade level, 459 read between
16 the 2nd- and 5th-grade levels. Of the 700
17 students reading above the 5th-grade level, 145
18 went on to get a job, 66 reported obtaining a
19 better job, 80 passed the high school equivalency
20 of GED, and 91 entered higher education or a
21 training program. Education does make
22 difference.

23 TANF recipients can enroll in a variety
24 of programs both at the Center for Literacy and
25 other places around the City. They can have

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2 one-on-one and small-group tutoring or they can
3 have classes with professional teachers. All
4 programs of the Center for Literacy are geared to
5 the goals of the learners, including job-readiness
6 activities.

7 Before sharing with you my specific
8 recommendations, I'd like to tell you about three
9 women who are or have participated in programs
10 offered by the Center for Literacy.

11 The first, Judy, is a 42-year-old woman
12 whose youngest child is 11. She grew up in the
13 South and left school in the 11th grade. Living
14 now in North Philadelphia, she has never gone
15 outside the area. She is reading below the
16 4th-grade level and just entered a 5-hour-a-week
17 class in her neighborhood.

18 She is wondering what's going to happen
19 to her. She wants to be a home health care aide
20 but cannot fillout an application, does not speak
21 standard English, and cannot qualify for a Private
22 Industry Council program.

23 Another example of her lack of basic
24 skills is how she's going to get to her next
25 caseworker visit. She knows the office has moved,

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2 and she knows what bus to take, but she doesn't
3 know the neighborhood well enough or enough to
4 pick up the phone and ask the question. So she's
5 going get off the bus and walk around the
6 neighborhood until she finds that office.

7 Judy falls through the cracks of
8 Greater Philadelphia Works. Because she's reading
9 below the 4th-grade level, what's going to happen
10 to her?

11 By contrast, Frieda is a TANF recipient
12 who is working 20 hours a week at Hunter School.
13 As the mother of three school-aged children, she
14 entered CLF's program two years ago. In addition
15 to her work, she studies Monday, Tuesday and
16 Thursday evening, for a total of 7 hours a week,
17 with both a tutor and in a class.

18 She demonstrates that some TANF
19 recipients have the drive and determination to
20 juggle work, family and educational programs.
21 Frieda's working for her GED. Although she's
22 prepared for March the 3rd, she's worried about
23 what happens if she or one of her children gets
24 sick, and then what will happen to her?

25 A third example is Irene, who entered

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2 CFL's program two years ago because she wanted to
3 find a job. As an intermediate-level student, she
4 and a tutor worked on filling out job applications
5 and reading want ads. She was successful in
6 finding a job at Spectaguard. Although she
7 initially took an entry-level position, she has
8 since been promoted to supervisor.

9 I share these examples with you because
10 these women illustrate different levels of
11 literacy, the diversity of what adult literacy
12 programs offer, and the important role of
13 educational programs in helping TANF recipients
14 become self-sufficient.

15 Turning to recommendations, I would
16 offer the following:

17 First of all, the definition of work
18 must be expanded to include education and
19 training, especially for adults reading below the
20 5th-grade level because they are not prepared to
21 obtain and keep a job.

22 Secondly, the length of time for
23 education and training must be extended. It is
24 currently 12 months in the law, and it needs to be
25 extended to 24 months. One year is simple

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2 insufficient time, especially for low-level
3 readers.

4 Third, the exemption category should be
5 used for those reading below the 5th-grade level.
6 They need skills that are not going to be in place
7 without substantial intervention.

8 Fourth, intensive literacy programs
9 must be provided to those reading below the
10 7th-grade level. Since the majority of current
11 programs meet three to six hours per week, this is
12 insufficient for low- level readers who are not
13 qualified for a job.

14 And, five, cross training of
15 caseworkers and adult literacy program staff must
16 occur so that caseworkers know what resources are
17 available, and program staff will understand how
18 the system works.

19 The Center for Literacy would volunteer
20 to do this training in each of the 19 County
21 Assistance Offices. This volunteerism has been
22 offered before and not been used.

23 I'd like to thank you for your
24 attention to these comments. I hope you will be a
25 strong advocate in this area.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you very
3 much.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We'll ask each of
6 to you testify and then we'll ask questions. The
7 Councilwoman has a question.

8 MR. BRANCH: Good morning. My name is
9 Wayne Branch. I am Vice President for Student
10 Affairs for the Community College of
11 Philadelphia. I am pleased to offer testimony on
12 welfare reform issues from the perspective of the
13 higher education community.

14 The higher education community has long
15 been concerned with the philosophy that drives
16 recent attempts to reform our welfare system as
17 well as the manner in which reforms are being
18 implemented.

19 We understand that "quick attachment to
20 the workforce," a phrase which underpins one of
21 the guiding principles of welfare reform only
22 works for individuals who already possess the
23 skills to obtain and maintain meaningful
24 employment. Without a coherent plan providing
25 welfare recipients with needed skills, we cannot

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2 expect that welfare reform will be successful.

3 At Community College of Philadelphia,
4 almost 60 percent of our students require basic
5 skill development. This should not be a surprise.
6 A 1986 survey of City residents estimated that
7 1 in 4 adults lacked basic skills, 25 percent had
8 dropped out of high school, 10 percent had less
9 than a 9th-grade education, and 2 out of every 5
10 Philadelphia citizens are unable to read and write
11 well enough to get a decent job.

12 Almost a decade later, the problem does
13 not seem close to resolution. The Philadelphia
14 Inquirer reported in 1995 that in all 171
15 Philadelphia public elementary schools, only 26
16 percent of the students tested scored above the
17 national average in reading. Also in 1995, half
18 of the School District's enrollments, nearly
19 110,000 students, live in households whose incomes
20 are below the poverty line. The link between
21 poverty and school achievement is undeniable. The
22 cycle of poverty is compounded by the lack of
23 education.

24 We now live in the Information Age.
25 Technology skills are now requirements for many

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2 jobs. And, assuredly, if this is the Information
3 Age, then the lack of information destines a
4 person and their family to poverty. Statistics
5 show that only 2.4 percent of persons in poverty
6 have earned a bachelor's degree or more.

7 Clearly, the more education you
8 possess, the more you are likely to earn during
9 your life span. A person who has earned an
10 associate's degree is likely to earn over a
11 quarter million dollars more during their working
12 life than a person who has earned a high school
13 degree.

14 According to the 1997 statistical
15 abstract, the median income earnings of a person
16 aged 35 to 44 is almost \$8,000 a year higher if
17 that person possesses an associate's degree. The
18 mean income for a person in the same category who
19 has not graduated from high school is only
20 \$6,738.

21 Unfortunately, the Commonwealth ranks
22 well above the national average for the percent of
23 population that possesses only a high school
24 diploma. In 1996, 38.6 percent of Pennsylvania's
25 residents possessed only a high school diploma.

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2 This was the highest percentage in the country.

3 The percent for the nation in the same year was
4 30 percent.

5 It should be understood that the road
6 to self-sufficiency must entail education and
7 skills-training past the secondary level.

8 Employers also are feeling the impact of this
9 skills gap. The Department of Labor has issued
10 several reports that have urged public education
11 at all levels to better prepare our workforce.
12 Locally, Community College of Pennsylvania has
13 been the fortunate recipient of many training
14 contracts seeking to respond to this need.

15 Sadly, the impact of welfare reform in
16 Pennsylvania has taken people from the very
17 education and training programs that could have
18 broken the cycle of poverty that they sought to
19 improve their lives.

20 In one of our neighbor sites known for
21 work with public-assistance recipients,
22 specifically women and their families in the
23 Kensington neighborhood, enrollment is down by am
24 76 percent since the advent of welfare reform.
25 And though we are in the process of formalizing

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2 our research, anecdotal evidence leads us to
3 believe that many students are not returning to
4 school for fear of losing their benefits or being
5 mandated to participate in the 8-week job search
6 programs while they are in school. Almost 70
7 percent of our full-time students receive some
8 form of financial aid, and almost 50 percent of
9 our entire student body receives some form of aid.

10 Of those students receiving Pell
11 grants, almost 50 percent have incomes so minimal
12 that they receive the full Pell allowance. The
13 majority of these full Pell grant recipients are
14 known to be single parents receiving public
15 assistance, approximately 4,000 students.

16 Nothing in the welfare reform statutes
17 disallows states from valuing education and
18 training as a strategy to remove people from
19 public assistance. There are states that have
20 recognized that the skills gap dooms any efforts
21 that seek to quickly attach public-assistance
22 recipients to the workforce. Iowa, Minnesota,
23 Vermont, and others have included training and a
24 commitment to education as a critical element of
25 their reform efforts.

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2 With Pennsylvania's literacy issues, a
3 more comprehensive approach to training and
4 education is needed to increase welfare reform's
5 success. Community College of Philadelphia, the
6 Private Industry Council, and the County
7 Assistance Office has developed and implemented a
8 model program that seeks to provide needed
9 education and training to teen parents and
10 noncustodial fathers. This program exists
11 primarily because of the efforts of Deputy Mayor
12 Donna Cooper of the mayor's office and the
13 Philadelphia Works initiative. Yet this is only a
14 model program created by exception rather than by
15 the rule.

16 The higher education community
17 continues to ask both the State and federal
18 government to allow a 24-month full-time
19 commitment to education and training for welfare
20 recipients. We believe that if we really want to
21 help people off public assistance, then we must
22 support those initiatives that provide education
23 and training, giving welfare recipients a fighting
24 chance in today's job market.

25 Additionally, the higher education

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2 community is concerned by rules that don't value
3 the on-the-job experience provided by programs
4 that include work as an integral part of study.
5 Currently, unpaid internships, cooperative
6 education programs, and other forms of unpaid work
7 study opportunities do not count toward the work
8 requirements inherent in the welfare reform
9 legislation.

10 Community College of Philadelphia has
11 many programs including, but not limited to,
12 office science, dental assistance hygiene, early
13 childhood education, health information technology
14 that requires students to work in their chosen
15 fields prior to receiving a degree. However,
16 currently, these programs do not satisfy the
17 mandatory welfare reform work requirement because
18 these experiences are unpaid. These programs
19 provide skills as well as education that lead to
20 employment. And isn't that the goal?

21 Finally, Community College of
22 Philadelphia is supportive of the work of the Jobs
23 Policy Network and enthusiastically endorses their
24 recommendations; one, use of the unemployment
25 insurance fund to provide an ongoing funding

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2 source dedicated to training workers for growing
3 industry; and, two, a commitment to providing
4 skills and educational opportunities to
5 individuals based on a required assessment of
6 their skills, education, and job readiness.

7 Much is needed to help people become
8 self-sufficient. We encourage City Council to
9 support efforts that include training and
10 education as a strategy to reform the welfare
11 reform system.

12 Thank you for permitting me to speak
13 with you this morning.

14 (Applause.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you very
16 much.

17 (Addressing Carol Goertzel.) Is there
18 any way to sum up your testimony? I notice a lot
19 of it there are statistics that have been reported
20 from the other three.

21 MS. GOERTZEL: Yes. I'd be glad to
22 try. Some of our statistics are from some of the
23 surveys that we've done with women, so it's from
24 kind of women's voices themselves, where they're
25 reiterating the same things that you do see from

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2 other statistics, and I will try to go through it
3 quickly.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

5 MS. GOERTZEL: Surely.

6 I'm Carol Groetzel, Executive Director
7 of the Women's Associations for Women's
8 Alternatives, a nonprofit family preservation and
9 job-training agency that serves about 800 people
10 in Philadelphia every year.

11 All of clients are poor and low-income,
12 women and their children who come from families
13 where abuse and neglect and generally lower
14 literacy skills are prevalent. We work to help
15 parents heal their own family relationships and to
16 move on to self-sufficiency.

17 What we've been doing as we've been
18 embarking on a Pennsylvania family economic
19 self-sufficiency project statewide, we have almost
20 about 435 to 450 people on our mailing list who
21 we're in communication with, and we're supported
22 by a national organization, Wider Opportunities
23 for Women. We're one of six states, plus the
24 District of Columbia, that's embarked on this
25 effort.

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2 In 1998, we did interviews in seven
3 areas around the State and we found that the
4 concerns were similar, whether women were in urban
5 areas, suburban areas, or the city. There was
6 massive confusion about changes in welfare,
7 confusion about availability of education,
8 concerns about availability and quality of child
9 care, feelings of stigma when they talked to their
10 welfare worker, confusion about the AMR, and
11 concerns about their ability to economically
12 support their families when they're ineligible for
13 TANF.

14 Women themselves know the problems that
15 they're facing. And we'll have a full report of
16 the press conference on November 30th.

17 People said, as you could see here, the
18 two-year clock, what does that mean? I signed for
19 AMR so I have 8 years left. Only 30 percent were
20 aware that the 2-year time limit meant that after
21 24 months, they must be working 20 hours a week.
22 And 68 percent were aware that their 5-year limit
23 exists. Over half did not understand the
24 difference between the 2- and 5-year limit.

25 While 30 percent of the people we

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2 interviewed cited access to education as the most
3 important variable -- this is women on public
4 assistance and lower literacy skills -- for their
5 successful transition, only 5 percent, 3 women out
6 of almost 60, were aware that education and
7 training was permissible as an activity for 12
8 months.

9 Almost nobody had it told to them that
10 they could participate in education or training.
11 As you'll see, people were told, You're in a GED
12 program, that doesn't matter, we want you to get a
13 job. People were in college, they were pulled
14 out.

15 Now, 39 percent of the women
16 interviewed said that child care was, however, the
17 greatest obstacle to getting off of welfare. The
18 child care system was enormously complicated, and
19 special arrangements for sick and disabled
20 children were not available to them.

21 People talked a lot about their welfare
22 workers, which I won't go into here because
23 changing systems is hard. But people that people
24 in the welfare offices acted as if the money's
25 coming out of their own pockets. And they were

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2 treated as if they're stupid, and they're not;
3 they're merely poor.

4 Sixty-nine percent of the women
5 interviewed said that they did not feel as though
6 the County Assistance Office was providing them
7 with the help they needed to negotiate the new
8 welfare system. That, of course, means that 30
9 percent felt that they were getting that support.
10 But 69 percent, when we're looking at what we are
11 in March, is a lot of people.

12 People get different caseworkers.
13 There's just massive confusion about what they're
14 being told and they are not being told about
15 opportunities. The women themselves told us over
16 and over they want to start a job and not a
17 career, I want to build a foundation so I don't
18 have to survive on a minimum-wage job.

19 What does it mean to move families out
20 of poverty? Which is what some of us are really
21 concerned about, not keeping families in poverty.
22 The self-sufficiency standard, that I believe
23 people have copies of and it was cited by Janet
24 Raffel at the prior testimony, is a planning tool
25 for welfare reform, and we are trying to get the

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2 State to use it as a planning tool, and we're in
3 negotiation, and it's not currently being used in
4 the City because it says that you need to be
5 earning about \$12 an hour if you do not want to
6 use all of the subsidies available and you want to
7 have your family move out of poverty -- not to
8 live in luxury, but to basically pay market-rate
9 rent, child care, food, transportation, medical
10 care, and taxes, without food stamps, Medicaid,
11 and public housing and child-care subsidy.

12 If you're using every possible subsidy
13 and you are getting your earned income tax credit
14 monthly, you can do it on about 6.50 an hour.
15 There is no way -- we've been trying for months --
16 that you can do it on minimum wage if you're a
17 mother with two children, you just can't with
18 every possible subsidy that's there.

19 If you don't get your earned income tax
20 credit monthly -- and most people do not -- you
21 must be earning over \$8 an hour, \$8 can do it
22 basically. That's 8, 8.25 for a mother and two
23 children if you're using every subsidy but the
24 earned income tax credit monthly. And to use the
25 earned income tax credit, it has to go through

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2 your employers, etc., so you're really a little
3 bit at risk.

4 There must be concrete information for
5 people to help them move from a wage with
6 subsidies to a self-sufficient wage. So when
7 their lifetime eligibility for cash assistance
8 expires, they will not be on the streets and they
9 will be able to provide for their families and not
10 forced into shelters and into other public
11 systems.

12 Those with the highest level of skill
13 are currently being placed in the minimum-wage and
14 lower-wage jobs because they're the most placeable
15 rather than encouraged to go onto further
16 education so that they will never see the welfare
17 system again, making room for those who have
18 lower-level literacy skills who may need to start
19 out at lower wages as they improve their literacy
20 level.

21 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Where did you get
22 that data from?

23 MS. GOERTZEL: Pardon?

24 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Where did you get
25 that data from?

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2 MS. GOERTZEL: Well, it's not hard
3 data. That data is from people we've interviewed
4 and talked to. And people that we work with who
5 have higher-level literacy skills are spoken to
6 over and over to enter a job, any job, no matter
7 what the wage level is. And I think you'll hear
8 more testimony about that later, okay? I will try
9 to get you the information that I have, okay, that
10 has harder data on that.

11 The best way to get self-sufficiency
12 wages the most quickly is through either
13 non-traditional employment for women or through
14 higher education. And Wayne just gave you a lot
15 of the data, that it's just like this (gesturing),
16 it just goes straight up in terms of the
17 correlation between education and income level.
18 College degree is an additional 3.65 an hour,
19 etc.

20 Discussion about income adequacy, we're
21 saying, is imperative, and as we look to the City
22 and to the welfare reform and to people hitting
23 their 2-year and their 5-year clock, if you're
24 doing everything right, you're working 20 or 25
25 hours a week at a minimum-wage job and you hit

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2 your 5 years, you can't pay your rent. So we're
3 all concerned about 2 years, we're concerned about
4 5 years.

5 And without assistance for planning for
6 self-sufficiency, planning for income adequacy,
7 the City is in trouble and families are in
8 trouble. And when we're talking about mothers and
9 children, we are also talking about their children
10 and the safety and well-being of their children.

11 The longer-term issue is what will
12 happen in two years, in five years, and thereafter
13 if they are not getting information about how to
14 get a self-sufficient wage, how to kind of manage
15 both the new systems and employment. There's a
16 lot of secrecy about how you move up in jobs and
17 you fill out even a college financial aid
18 application.

19 People don't know if it's turned back
20 three times, that's normal. They give up, they
21 say it's me. We know. We have used financial aid
22 or our children or our nieces or our nephews --
23 you always have to do it over and over again
24 because there are inevitable errors. There is so
25 much about public systems and new systems that's a

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2 mystery, and people need help moving through them.

3 Long-term training. Long-term training
4 is really important, and we all have stories of
5 people, who, through nine months of training, have
6 moved from being crack addicts to supporting their
7 families; from people who have been trouble and
8 never been on a job skill other than on a
9 (unintelligible) level but have enough skill and
10 education to be able to support their family.

11 Our own job training has about 90
12 percent retention, and it is a 9-month training
13 program training non-traditional 90 percent
14 retention in their job training.

15 Short-term quick fixes are not fixes at
16 all in terms of supporting families and families
17 supporting themselves with self-sufficient wages,
18 and we ask you to look at these issue as you see
19 what's happening in Pennsylvania.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Thank you very much.

23 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We'll now take
24 questions of these four panelists, and then we'll
25 bring the other two up.

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2 Councilwoman Blackwell.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
4 Madame Chair.

5 Two questions. One, what is the
6 difference from the 24 months to 5 years? Is it
7 that the recipients still receive other benefits
8 other than cash assistance or a subsidy thereof?

9 MS. GOERTZEL: After five years, my
10 understanding is that people receive no cash
11 assistance. They can still get food stamps unless
12 they've been sanctioned and deemed uncooperative,
13 when it seems that your food stamps might also be
14 at risk, but you'd still get medical care for your
15 children.

16 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: You get
17 medical care after the 24 months, right?

18 MS. GOERTZEL: Pardon?

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I know after
20 five years, everything goes.

21 MS. GOERTZEL: No, you can't --

22 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: But your
23 maximum in your lifetime, you get five years.

24 MS. GOERTZEL: For cash assistance.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay.

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2 MS. GOERTZEL: You can still get food
3 stamps.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: In your
5 statement, you said a lot of people and the
6 recipients don't know the difference between what
7 happens after 24 months and what happens --

8 MS. GOERTZEL: Absolutely.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I'm not sure I
10 know now.

11 MS. GOERTZEL: Absolutely.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I mean, it
13 raised the question for me to crystalize it. In
14 my own mind, I'm not positive I know what's the
15 difference between 24 months and 5 years, other
16 than 5 years is the maximum lifetime benefit.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Could you walk us
18 through it?

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Other than 20
20 hours a month, we know you have to work after 24
21 months. What else do you get?

22 MS. GOERTZEL: You can receive cash
23 assistance if you're working, supplemental cash
24 assistance. And you receive TANF if you're
25 working 20 hours a week after 2 years. If you're

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2 working 20 hours a week after 5 years, you don't
3 receive any supplemental assistance; you're just
4 working 20 hours a week.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Okay, I
6 thought that was it. I thought maybe there was
7 something I missed.

8 Another question. It was mentioned by
9 Miss Weinberger, is it? That you mentioned
10 5th-grade reading level for people to be pretty
11 much employable. Now, we have been told and have
12 heard in earlier hearings that you need an
13 8th-grade reading level, so is it 5th grade or 8th
14 grade?

15 And do we need to -- is our goal to try
16 to bring people up to high school equivalency
17 tests, 8th-grade reading level? And since we know
18 we don't have -- none of the plans include people,
19 there's no job training at this point for people
20 who can't read, what should our goal be to make
21 people employable?

22 MS. WEINBERGER: It's a complex
23 question. Basically, in order to enter a job
24 training program, you must be reading at least the
25 8th-grade level.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Right.

3 MS. WEINBERGER: To get a job. You
4 need to be reading about the 8th-grade level.

5 Some minimum-wage jobs, you can get
6 reading at the 5th- or 6th-grade level. The
7 regional centers created under Greater
8 Philadelphia Works will be working with people
9 reading at the 5th-grade level and above.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: To bring them
11 up to --

12 MS. WEINBERGER: Well, not to bring
13 them up. To get them a job and to offer the
14 wraparound support of employment advisors to be
15 able help them get a job and keep a job. They
16 must be employed 20 hours a week. Education is
17 considered an add-on.

18 That's one of the reasons that both in
19 my testimony and in Carol's and Wayne Branch's, I
20 think Rose too, we talked about the importance of
21 broadening the definition of a "work-related
22 activity" to include education and training. The
23 State has the option of doing that and has never
24 exercised that option.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And that's

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2 really a major problem.

3 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That was Ed
4 Schwartz's contention last week.

5 MS. GOERTZEL: That's a very major
6 problem.

7 MS. WEINBERGER: And that does not take
8 a legislative change.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Very, very
10 important point. We've already had people who
11 come to our office saying that they're in school
12 and they have to quit.

13 MS. GOERTZEL: That's right.

14 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: So that they
15 can certainly support children.

16 MS. WEINBERGER: And certainly people
17 have been pulled out of education and training
18 programs for the 8-week rapid attachment to the
19 workforce programs also. We had people that were
20 enrolled, that were taking the step and then were
21 pulled out for purposes of that program.

22 MS. GOERTZEL: We also have people who
23 have been referred to two and three 8-week job
24 search programs rather than into real training.
25 So that we had somebody who said that they wrote

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2 like 14 resumes, but they were never sent to
3 education and training so they could really be
4 able to get a job that they could support their
5 support families on.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: And another
7 problem is, because we deal with an agency that
8 does a lot in training, an excellent job in
9 welfare to work, and they do not permit -- that's
10 the Professional Health Care Institute. As my
11 friends from Caring and Sharing will attest to,
12 they don't permit these ladies and men to sign
13 these big grants, big money grants that they can't
14 begin to pay off with what they will earn.

15 And, unfortunately, a lot of recipients
16 are victims of signing off their futures in these
17 grants. And if they don't finish the program and
18 try to start another, they're stuck because they
19 already have received a State educational grant,
20 so it's a big problem.

21 But that does answer my question that
22 you try for 5th-grade level to get them training
23 for employment.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Miss Weinberger,

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2 you talked about your effort to provide volunteer
3 programs in the assistance offices without any
4 support for that.

5 Who did you talk to? Did you talk to
6 the local office or the State office? Or do you
7 go to each office?

8 MS. WEINBERGER: We basically talk to
9 the central local office about providing staff
10 development training. That's what we thought was
11 important, so that caseworkers could indeed be
12 informed about the kinds of education programs
13 that were available and the importance of those
14 educational programs.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: And what was the
16 reason why you were not -- why your offer was not
17 accepted?

18 MS. WEINBERGER: There was never a
19 reason given.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Mm-hmm. In the
21 planning of the City's program of Philadelphia
22 Works, you mentioned, Mr. Branch, something about
23 Donna Cooper helping you with this education
24 piece, and then I didn't get a sense over here
25 that there was any involvement for literacy

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2 programs at all.

3 MR. BRANCH: We are currently running a
4 teen parent program, and that's the program that
5 Donna Cooper and the County Assistance Office, the
6 Private Industry Council, and Community College of
7 Philadelphia all collaborated.

8 The goal is to allow teen parents right
9 out of Philadelphia public schools to come
10 directly to college. We create work experiences
11 for them to meet the 20-hour-a-week mandate. And
12 then they would be allowed to continue
13 post-secondary education for two years. And
14 that's the program that other states have
15 attempted to put forth statewide, or programs like
16 that.

17 And so what we are saying is, Why let
18 that be the exception? Then let that commitment
19 to post-secondary education be the rule.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: So I guess, to sum
21 it up and not to be simplistic, is that the State
22 can allow for education but it's not happening.

23 MR. BRANCH: That's absolutely true.

24 The other option that the State has is
25 to allow for these unpaid work experiences to

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2 count towards the 20-hour-a week work
3 requirement. And the State, as of yet, has chosen
4 not to do that.

5 And so programs -- for example, our
6 secretarial science program has a work requirement
7 as a part of study, that that would count towards
8 the 20-hour-a-week commitment if the State would
9 let it count for them.

10 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Mm-hmm.

11 MS. GOERTZEL: And if the State would
12 emphasize a mapping to self-sufficiency to people
13 that would include improving their education, plus
14 whatever work experience they have, then people
15 would be in a different place. And that has not
16 historically happened in the last two years.

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay, thank you
18 very much. We appreciate it.

19 Any other questions?

20 (No further questions.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you very
22 much.

23 Miss Weinberger, you didn't have
24 written testimony, did you?

25 MS. WEINBERGER: Yes, I did. I

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2 provided it to --

3 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Okay, we'll get
4 it, we'll get it. Thank you very much.

5 Next is Mr. Schwartz and Miss Oakman.

6 (Mr. Schwartz and Ms. Oakman come
7 forward.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We have a hearing
9 here today at 1 o'clock. It's 11:20 now, so we
10 hope you'll try and sum up your testimony for us
11 because we have other panelists that we want to go
12 on.

13 MS. OAKMAN: Good morning.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Good morning.

15 MS. OAKMAN: My name is Hannah Oakman.

16 I am Executive Director of a nonprofit
17 organization that works with single mothers on
18 welfare called "Personal Empowerment Now." I'm an
19 employee of Community College of Philadelphia,
20 where I work to provide opportunities for
21 community service for students, faculty, and
22 staff. And I'm also a liaison at the college for
23 welfare recipients with the Department of Public
24 Welfare.

25 I'm here today to assist City Council

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2 from my vantage point as an employee of the
3 college, as the Executive Director of a nonprofit,
4 and as an 11-year veteran who has worked in the
5 trenches. I'm also a former welfare recipient. I
6 want to talk about the firsthand day-to-day
7 struggle of the economically exploited.

8 In 1983, I was a single mother of four,
9 living in substandard housing, facing
10 homelessness, and on welfare, receiving less than
11 \$5,000 for my family to survive. Some of you may
12 have read my story in The Philadelphia Inquirer or
13 in Women's World magazine or on the Internet where
14 I'm currently featured on the nationally-lauded
15 Moms on Line website.

16 I've gone from welfare to the White
17 House, and the reason why I'm here today is that
18 if I don't reach out to help others like me, what
19 good is my journey.

20 For those of you who thrive on
21 statistics, Dr. Wayne Branch of Community College
22 spoke about the gaps of thousands of dollars
23 between annual salaries of those who are not
24 college-educated versus those who are. It doesn't
25 take a genius to see that education is the

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2 foundation for a future economic stability and
3 growth for a family and for a city.

4 If you think I'm here to preach
5 Community College of Philadelphia, think again.
6 I'm here to preach lifelong learning.

7 I went to Community College of
8 Philadelphia in 1983 as a single mom with my four
9 sons, and my goal was to find employment I. Was
10 told in the city, from the caseworkers, from
11 people that I knew, even from my own friends and
12 family, that welfare recipients needed 5 years to
13 earn a 2-year degree, they were lazy, they were
14 stupid too, and it was too hard to juggle
15 education, family, and work. Allegedly, we were
16 just not capable of that.

17 My job, as I saw it, was to shatter
18 every single myth. I earned my two-year degree in
19 two years. I continued my education after my
20 associate's degree and gained certification from a
21 four-year college as a paralegal. Then I landed
22 my first full-time job, making three times my
23 welfare grant. I completed undergraduate work
24 while working full-time, raising my children,
25 successfully running a nonprofit community

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2 development corporation. That was in 1987.

3 I've decided now that it's time to go
4 back to school, and I'm going to enter a master's
5 degree program next year and go even further.

6 It doesn't make me special; it makes me
7 an average American. There are people that could
8 do the same thing that are on public assistance if
9 they had carefully-crafted support systems and
10 appropriate resources. They need to take a look
11 at where they are, and not look at where they came
12 from, and look at where they're going.

13 Many of the programs that are crafted
14 right now have taken the "self" out of
15 self-sufficiency. They are telling them what to
16 do, when to do it, and where to do it, and the
17 welfare recipients have not bought into their own
18 success. All it's going to cause is them to
19 recycle back to the welfare rolls.

20 For those of you who are in positions
21 of power, influence, and financial security, if
22 you honestly want welfare recipients to leave the
23 welfare rolls to become self-sufficient for a
24 lifetime, I have one word that want you to
25 remember: Push.

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2 Push for quicker results in the
3 streamlining of the current child-care systems so
4 that those who are trying to work don't lose
5 benefits and their jobs when moving from
6 subsidized care to transitional child care,
7 because that's what's happening now.

8 Push grant diversion. Request that the
9 State pay the difference between a welfare
10 recipient's grant and the minimum wage,
11 transforming welfare checks into wages earned
12 through significant community service work, which
13 will entitle them to the earned income credit.
14 That is what work net should be.

15 Push DPW to apply the 50 percent
16 disregard on income earned to the net amount that
17 the recipient actually receives instead of the
18 gross.

19 Push for heads of household who have
20 successfully maintained substantial employment
21 above the minimum wage to earn empowerment grants
22 like many welfare-to-work programs across the
23 country. Those grants are used for purchasing
24 homes, establishing bank accounts, and paying for
25 education or to add to their work wardrobe. The

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2 current work wardrobe of \$75 \$150 in special
3 allowances does not constitute a work wardrobe.

4 Push harder to support Senate Bill 895,
5 introduced by Senator Vincent Hughes, which is
6 currently in labor and industry.

7 Push for start-up funding and encourage
8 continued funding for the development of 24-hour
9 child-care facilities that will provide services
10 to those who work non-traditional hours. Also
11 encourage additional funding for children over age
12 12 who are no longer covered under child care
13 because of their age.

14 Push the School District to work
15 closely with the Federation of Teachers to promote
16 programming which begins before 8:15 and ends
17 later than 2:45 for working parents. Regular
18 being late and leaving early is neither excused
19 nor tolerated in the working world, even though
20 DHS will quickly state that a child's safety and
21 security should be the parent's first priority.

22 Push for the support of the emergency
23 welfare agenda of the Jobs Policy Network, which
24 Dr. Branch and others mentioned today, an agenda
25 which addresses many of the problems that you see.

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2 Push Senator Rick Santorum to use the
3 educational savings account for before- and
4 after-school care, tutoring and computers for
5 every school with large populations of low-income
6 parents, making the availability of supportive
7 care for working parents a reality. And he did
8 say that that was available, those funds were
9 there, and I've attached a copy to my testimony of
10 his letter to me stating same from July 1, 1998.

11 Push your constituents into the reality
12 of what's going to happen. It is not going to go
13 away. The federal government and the state are
14 not going to change their minds. Whether we like
15 it or not, welfare reform may be a lemon, but the
16 reality is that it's time to make lemonade.

17 An educated and self-sufficient parent
18 is the best gift a mom or dad can give to their
19 children and this city.

20 And I'd also like for you to take note
21 that after people are moved from welfare to work,
22 there is a new set of problems that they may or
23 may not have been prepared for. I'm a working
24 parent. With my benefits, I make more than eight
25 times the amount of money I got on welfare because

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2 I have a degree.

3 And I've been able to get a career, not
4 a job. Because a job does not help you get out of
5 poverty; a career will. And what I'm facing every
6 day as a working parent is what welfare recipients
7 will face once they're off of public assistance.
8 I don't drive fear of people out on the highway
9 and also made it a point to overcome that fear so
10 about to drive because.

11 I don't drive because of my fear of the
12 people out on the highway. And I've also made it
13 a point to overcome that fear, so I'm about to
14 drive. But because I don't, every day, because my
15 children -- I have four school-aged children --
16 have to be at school at 8:15, and that's the
17 earliest they can be there. If my job started at
18 8:30, I'd be late for work every day.

19 For me to get to work every day and
20 make sure I'm on time, I spend over \$200 a month
21 to make sure I can get someone to drive me from
22 the school to my job to stay employed because my
23 children. Welfare recipients moving from welfare
24 to work would never be able to do that.

25 I thank you for the opportunity to

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2 speak.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Councilwoman

5 Blackwell, go ahead.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,

7 thank you, Hannah.

8 Let me ask you a question. You

9 mentioned that at 12 years of age, what happens?

10 MS. OAKMAN: There is no care that is
11 provided by transitional or subsidized child care
12 for children over the age of 12 years old. They
13 believe that they are no longer required to pay
14 for child care.

15 So that means our children that are
16 that age are forced to be latchkey kids, whether
17 we want them to be.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I mention that
19 because that is also the age on a quality-of-life
20 bill where children can't ride bikes or
21 roller-skate on their own sidewalks. It's ironic
22 that that is age 12 too. So you don't get day
23 care, and a kid can get locked up.

24 MS. OAKMAN: And the School District
25 has told me that there are programs that they are

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2 trying to start for after school, but the money is
3 minimal. And they said that they have to focus
4 all of their resources on children age 12 and over
5 because of the fact that there's no child care,
6 because the criminal justice system has said that
7 that is the problem age.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
9 Hannah.

10 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: Mr. Schwartz.

11 MR. SCHWARTZ: Thank you. I am
12 former-Councilman Ed Schwartz, head of the
13 Institute for the Study of Civic Values. And for
14 the last 18 months, we have been organizing a
15 coalition that involves many of the people you're
16 hearing, called "JOIN," Jobs and Opportunities to
17 Improve Neighborhoods. To address the agenda, we
18 need to make welfare reform, so-called, work.

19 I want to start by answering
20 Councilwoman Blackwell's question as succinctly as
21 I can, then I want to set forth what I believe to
22 be the basic conflict between what we -- and I
23 look at the two members of Council here, in fact,
24 all of you who are here this morning -- believe
25 and what we're up against. And then I want to

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2 help you out by laying out seven areas -- and I'm
3 giving you this -- that I believe, as you monitor
4 this over time, are the questions that you need to
5 be asking as we are asking them.

6 First, the question, What's going on
7 here two years, five years? As of March 3, 1997,
8 there were, we learned, 64,000 heads of household
9 who were receiving federal support under the
10 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

11 The core requirement that came out over
12 five years is that if they receive this assistance
13 for five years in their lifetime, they would lose
14 that cash -- no more, no more of what we used to
15 call "AFDC." They would get food stamps, and they
16 would still be eligible for Medicaid.

17 And given my past, I'll give you a
18 third one. On public housing, on Section 8, there
19 was a debate, but it looked like, in effect, that
20 Section 8 would still be required to pay their
21 rent, although one wonders what will happen in
22 Congress when they see the cost of that one.

23 But you have heard from Carol Goertzel
24 that you can't even live on the cash assistance.
25 Now try to live on food stamps and Section 8; you

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2 will definitely need Medicaid very soon after you
3 attempt that one.

4 That's what ends in five years.

5 Under the federal law, after two years
6 of consecutive receiving, everyone who receives
7 this money now becomes a part of the pool. And
8 the states are told, You have to have 20 percent,
9 something like that, and Rich Weishaupt may
10 correct my percentage. But it's something like
11 20, 25 percent who are engaged at that point in
12 what they call "work-related activities."

13 And in the federal legislation, there's
14 a whole list of things identified as work-related
15 activities. They include jobs, they include
16 community-service jobs and all those things, but
17 they also include a year of vocational education,
18 and they also include job-readiness and job
19 search.

20 Now, many of us felt that even that
21 list was too narrow, that we wanted them to permit
22 people to pursue two years of vocational education
23 -- in fact, GED programs and the rest of it, which
24 was not allowed under the federal law.

25 And so, this past year, Senator

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2 Wellstone from Minnesota introduced an amendment
3 to the Higher Education Act that would have
4 permitted recipients to pursue vocational
5 education at least for two years. So some of
6 these vocationally-directed programs at Community
7 College could pass. It passed the Senate, it went
8 to conference committee with the House, under the
9 Higher Education (unintelligible), and they killed
10 it.

11 Now, that's the federal law. Two
12 years. At least they can do some things that
13 relate to education and work-related after the two
14 years, and that's only a portion of the case load.

15 Now we get back to the Commonwealth of
16 Pennsylvania and so-called Act 35 here. What Act
17 35 did is basically define work without any of the
18 other work-related activities included in it.

19 So even if Wellstone passed and
20 whatever, the fact is that as of March 3rd of this
21 coming year, everyone who has been receiving
22 benefits for TANF for 24 consecutive months must
23 be working, as I said Friday. They must be in a
24 paid job, in a paid part-time job or in a
25 community service job. They can do that as a

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2 volunteer -- there's always a job for a
3 volunteer. But basically, they are not able to
4 spend 20 hours a week in a vocational training
5 program.

6 Or here's an irony. The City has
7 created Greater Philadelphia Works, and 6,000
8 people will be working for work under that program
9 in the private sector. After March 3rd, every one
10 of them who has reached the 24 limit, 24-month
11 limit, will have to be working while they look for
12 work under that program.

13 So even if we got the changes in the
14 federal law, the State would still have to change
15 it.

16 Now, could the Welfare Department find
17 some administrative way to interpret work?
18 Perhaps. Richard Weishaupt from CLS were just
19 discussing that. They're not going to do it. And
20 right now, there's no evidence that they're going
21 to go back to the legislature.

22 But that's a core issue here. And it's
23 a -- reflects really a basic difference in
24 perspective. This gets to be my second point I
25 want to make.

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2 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: That's the question
3 that Secretary Heller did not answer the other
4 day.

5 MR. SCHWARTZ: She obfuscated it. And
6 when I challenged her on it, she listed a series
7 of community service work options, all of which
8 were work. And as I said, it did not contradict
9 what I said. Then she talked about a program that
10 they're running, which is essentially a 30-,
11 35-hour-a-week program, and said that people could
12 work, you know, while they were getting
13 education.

14 I guess I'm a little surprised to hear
15 in the testimony today that Community College is
16 not able to use the work that is involved in a
17 work experience program there as a means of
18 meeting the work requirement under the welfare in
19 Pennsylvania. That is in direct contradiction to
20 a what Sherry Heller said to you last week. She
21 said that if you were in a work-study program or
22 something like that, the work part could be used
23 for the work requirement.

24 Now you're hearing from our own
25 Community College that that's not what they were

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2 told. Again, this is a direct contradiction -- I
3 will try not to use the word "lie." We'll just
4 see what she says.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MR. SCHWARTZ: I promise I won't bang
7 anything on the table. I was told I -- I was
8 going to bang my shoe but, you know, historical
9 memory is not great. I'm not sure how many people
10 will even remember Krushchev.

11 But, look, the words we need to use to
12 describe this is not "welfare reform"; it is
13 "workforce expansion."

14 On March 3, 1997, 80 percent of 64,000,
15 roughly 53 or 4,000 mothers, were told that in
16 five years, they were going to be laid off from
17 full-time work and raising their kids. We're not
18 going to pay 'em for that. And what we're going
19 to pay them is for work.

20 Starting on March 3rd, when they are
21 working 20 hours a week, that's no longer
22 welfare. They're working 20 hours a week and
23 they're getting paid. Their welfare check right
24 now and food stamps and these other things become
25 a part of a paycheck. Now we can debate how much

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2 people who work ought to get paid.

3 Now, how to we treat expanding the
4 workforce? How are different groups treated?
5 When dislocated workers get kicked out of
6 manufacturing jobs, so now we have a smart factory
7 in West Oak Lane training them to become
8 high-level machinists. We spend 17 to \$22,000 a
9 person on training them.

10 You all voted for the Kvaerner deal.
11 The training in that deal amounts to about at
12 least \$29,000 a person to help former shipbuilders
13 become a part of this new economy.

14 We spent \$400 a person on adult basic
15 literacy. The average training in a PIC program
16 is about 3 or \$4,000, and people criticize that
17 for being too high. And you know what the
18 difference is? These other programs are helping
19 men, and this set of programs is helping women.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. SCHWARTZ: And so it's perfectly
22 all right to help men, who are, after all, the
23 backbone of the industrial economy -- and more
24 power to 'em, and I did bang my hand on the
25 table, sorry -- get 22,000. But when it comes to

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2 women who are going to be the backbone of the new
3 information and service economy, then, in fact, we
4 are only prepared to spend a few hundred dollars.
5 And the moment we think, in fact, we can throw
6 them off of welfare, we do it.

7 See, my view is that a healthy attitude
8 toward this community and this Commonwealth would
9 be to cheer what Hannah Oakman has accomplished
10 with our help and to try to see what we need to do
11 to help everyone follow the route she's followed.
12 But everything that's happened in the last year or
13 two would have made impossible what Hannah Oakman
14 has already achieved.

15 People were told in training programs
16 that they had to go look for a job for eight
17 weeks, and so they had to leave their training and
18 education programs. And now when you argue with
19 some of these folks, and the people on this panel
20 have argued, that we should support folks in
21 education and training, they're told, Well, other
22 people go to school at night, why can't these
23 people? Very true, some do.

24 But they have not been led through
25 their lives to understand and accept a certain

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2 subsidy for families that we all say we want to
3 support family values and suddenly have the rug
4 pulled out from under them after they have already
5 secured family responsibilities.

6 You are asked to vote every month for
7 some bill that's going to offer some business some
8 major deal so that they will have profits equal to
9 the highest levels of expectations of investors
10 for the privilege of locating in Philadelphia so
11 that maybe, at the end of that, some people will
12 get jobs. But right now in this region, there are
13 a lot of jobs, a point to which I will return --
14 in the region, outside the city.

15 So isn't it an equally valid way to
16 improve our economy to raise the level of
17 education and training and skills that will permit
18 people to work in the new economy?

19 And let me make another point about
20 understanding that. It's really not quite as
21 complicated as it sounds, you all know this. What
22 are the three, in this area, biggest places where
23 people will work in the new economy? One is in
24 health care, we all sort of know that one, and
25 there are some jobs available in health care, but

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2 they do require a certain level of education, even
3 at the lowest level, for a nurse's aid, to be able
4 to compete. Community College has a good program
5 in it.

6 A second is in retail, in stores. The
7 net effect of tourism and the rest of it will be
8 an expansion of retail. And in the suburbs,
9 there's a lot of retail jobs. Those are available
10 to people without high school diplomas, although
11 they still have to think about it. What do you
12 need to know to stand behind a counter and work
13 the cash register? And that's not a very
14 high-paying job, and it's not a very permanent
15 one, but it is available.

16 The good job, comparable to the factory
17 job of the industrial economy, in the new economy,
18 is an office job, whether it's in government, a
19 economy or in a nonprofit. We all have spent our
20 lives working in offices. So think about what you
21 need to know how to do to work in an office. You
22 run offices; would you hire somebody who couldn't
23 read or write properly or use the phone
24 intelligently or, at this point, use a computer?
25 No, you wouldn't think of that, even as an intern.

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2 So what we need to figure out is the
3 training necessary to help people who are entering
4 this new economy as part of workforce expansion be
5 able to work in offices 'cause that's where the
6 money is. And nothing like that question has been
7 asked as a frame work for developing this policy.

8 In Tennessee, what they did, was first
9 start with families first. They decided that
10 maybe family values had more than just rhetorical
11 meaning. And they screened everybody in terms of
12 their place on the educational ladder.

13 And so if you tested below a certain
14 level in Tennessee, fifth or sixth grade, you were
15 immediately exempted from a job search and the
16 rest of it and required to go into adult basic
17 education for 20 hours a week until you were ready
18 to enter the workforce.

19 What these people in Pennsylvania did
20 was to test no one, throw everyone into the labor
21 market, yank them out of training programs, force
22 them there whether they were ready or not, and
23 then take credit that a handful of them managed to
24 get a job for a few months, and have yet to give
25 us a statistic that indicates what the retention

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2 of people was even three months after they got
3 those jobs. Except that the data they gave you
4 last week, interestingly enough, showed that there
5 were 15 or 16,000 more people placed in jobs than
6 the case load was reduced, indicating that there
7 are an all of a lot of people who are either still
8 on welfare while they're working or included two
9 or three times as they've moved from one to two to
10 three jobs. There's no way of knowing what the
11 real answer is because they won't tell us.

12 So are we out to increase the ability
13 of our workforce to compete, as the governor
14 himself says when he's not talking about this
15 particular group or people? Or is the idea simply
16 to throw people off welfare as quickly as we can
17 get it, brag to everybody that we've reduced the
18 case load, and not look too hard at where anybody
19 is at the other end of the rainbow? That's the
20 issue.

21 And we want to increase the ability of
22 people to contribute to this economy, and the
23 people we're dealing with in Harrisburg talk that
24 language, but their policies have nothing to do
25 with it.

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2 (Applause.)

3 MR. SCHWARTZ: I'm going to add one
4 more point here and very rapidly go through the
5 things, and that concerns the crisis we will face
6 on March 3rd concerning this so-called community
7 service work option.

8 We have a debate among us as to which
9 of the various statistics that the Welfare
10 Department has given us will turn out to be true
11 on March 3rd in terms of the number of people who
12 need to be working. For a while, with 26,000 Don
13 Stoval (ph.) in more recent meetings is saying
14 50,000. I'm sure by the end of the fall, it's
15 going to well over 25,000 and probably in the
16 30,000 range.

17 They need to be working 20 hours a
18 week. Now, think about that. We have to find
19 jobs for people 20 hours a week, starting March
20 3rd, for as many people as work for the City of
21 Philadelphia.

22 COUNCILMAN ORTIZ: But Miss Heller says
23 no, that's not the case.

24 MR. SCHWARTZ: Well, Miss Heller can
25 say whatever she wants. Miss Heller came here two

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2 years ago, the day The Daily News was reporting on
3 her pilot program for this kind of stuff. And The
4 Daily News reported that out of 26,000 people they
5 enrolled in a certain program, they placed 5,000,
6 which was a 20 percent placement rate. Four out
7 of five didn't make it.

8 But she sat here in front of you and
9 said, Well, we placed 5,000 people in jobs,
10 without ever telling you that it was out of
11 26,000. If I accused her of consistently
12 misrepresenting her statistics, that was the
13 beginning of this process as far as I was
14 concerned. It was this Council in their first
15 hearing that Council Coleman was describing.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. SCHWARTZ: So you'll excuse me if
18 people who give no information, and when they give
19 it, give it in a way that you can't understand it,
20 tell you something isn't true, I don't believe
21 it.

22 I was in one of these jobs and I felt
23 that it was my responsibility to tell taxpayers
24 and citizens how we, as their trustees, were
25 spending their money and what we were getting from

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2 it. These people seem to have the attitude that
3 it's their money, and they're not going to tell
4 you a damn thing about what they're going to do
5 with it.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SCHWARTZ: So whatever she says,
8 the raw fact of the matter is that there's a real
9 number out here of the number of people whose
10 24-month consecutive periods ends March 3rd. And
11 one day or another, that number is going to be
12 upon us. It will be -- the lowest I've heard from
13 the Welfare Department is 15,000. And I'd say
14 that if it's 15,000 on March 3rd, it's going to be
15 a lot higher by July 3rd or September 3rd.

16 And we are talking about creating a new
17 workforce here of a magnitude that we have not had
18 to do ever for adults. The only parallel you can
19 give is the summer jobs for youth program where
20 they try to find temporary kids at that level, you
21 have to look at it that way.

22 The SETA program that some of us lived
23 through and were on (unintelligible), 4500 people,
24 that's all, were working for the City of
25 Philadelphia under SETA program, 4500. That's a

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2 third of the most conservative number we've been
3 given on welfare reform, and that was a day when
4 everyone would complain about patronage workers
5 lining the streets of City Hall or sitting around
6 the rec centers. So how we construct a massive
7 community-service program becomes a central
8 priority.

9 And let me add, in terms of the
10 questions about New York. I have been to New York
11 and visited a welfare reform coalition whose
12 entire focal point in New York is workfare
13 everything that Tom Cronin said about workfare is
14 true.

15 But the battle ground of the future are
16 these new workers that we're bringing in who are
17 being brought in to undercut the wage scales,
18 undercut everything else of the existing
19 workforce, without education to get them into
20 jobs, and that's what we're about.

21 You need to be monitoring the
22 following:

23 First, the battle over whether we can
24 get the State to decide that education and
25 training is a work-related activity, as is allowed

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2 under the federal law.

3 Secondly, you need to be pushing for
4 accurate information about all of this so we know
5 where we are.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SCHWARTZ: Third, can we get a
8 comparable commitment from the City and its
9 programs for accurate information? They've been
10 pretty good so far, so that may not be so hard.

11 Fourth, how can we build a workforce of
12 25 to 40,000 people doing community-service jobs
13 that does not undermine the existing workforce
14 that helps people get education and training in
15 the process and adds value to this community
16 instead of disrupting it.

17 The Institute has run a tiny little
18 program in collaboration with the Center for
19 Literacy and the Urban Affairs Coalition that
20 integrates community service, literacy and job
21 placement. And we have offered to significantly
22 expands what we do. But so far, no one's been
23 interested.

24 Can we work with SEPTA to build a fleet
25 of vans --

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Schwartz, I'm
3 going to have to ask you to summarize.

4 MR. SCHWARTZ: I'm going to end.

5 Can we work with SEPTA to expand the
6 ability of people to get from the City to the
7 suburbs in massive numbers? We proposed last year
8 at this Council 3500 vans and vehicle to do it.
9 You need smaller vehicles. SEPTA's done a certain
10 amount of reverse commuting. They haven't done
11 anything like this.

12 Can we create in every area of the City
13 literacy centers that are geographically
14 accessible to people so that they, in turn, can
15 get the kind of education and training they need,
16 near their homes, if they have to work, as looks
17 likely to be.

18 And, finally, can we build a child-care
19 system that assures in the face of all of this
20 that every kid in Philadelphia is going to be
21 given adequate support while their parents are
22 working.

23 Those are the areas you need to be
24 monitoring, and we will work with you to make sure
25 that we provide you with the best information that

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2 we can.

3 And I appreciate time that you've given
4 me to make these remarks. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Any questions?

7 (No questions.)

8 MR. SCHWARTZ: Thank you very much. I
9 have this material here for you guys.

10 (Commissioner Joan Reeves comes
11 forward.)

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Commissioner, we're
13 very pleased that you're here. You've heard a
14 great deal today. I think your office heard a
15 great deal at the last hearing and at the original
16 hearing that took place about a year and a half
17 ago.

18 Please proceed in any manner that suits
19 you.

20 COMMISSIONER REEVES: Thank you. My
21 name is Joan Reeves. I'm Commissioner for the
22 Department of Human Services.

23 As Councilman Cohen mentioned, we've
24 heard a lot, and you've heard from the Department
25 before about the impact of welfare reform.

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2 I think there's some key issues that I
3 want to highlight and I know others have
4 identified some questions to be asked of the
5 Department of Public Welfare, and I'd just like to
6 add to that list, if I may.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Go ahead, please.

8 COMMISSIONER REEVES: One is that we
9 are in need of information from the Department of
10 Public Welfare, and we have requested a list of
11 the TANF families who have open cases with the
12 Department of Human Services. We'd like to do a
13 cross match so that we can then provide the levels
14 of support to these families as the 24-month clock
15 continues to tick. So one of the questions is,
16 Will DPW provide that information to the
17 Department of Human Services?

18 The other is around child care, and I'm
19 sure there will be those here today to testify
20 about the concerns. But families, parents will
21 need to have available, accessible, affordable,
22 and safe child care that has quality. One of our
23 major concerns is that the way the child care is
24 being proposed is that the lowest quality child
25 care will be the child care that will be most

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2 available to those parents who can find it.

3 The other question is, When will the
4 State determine the 20 percent of the TANF
5 recipients who will be exempted from the
6 requirements based on hardship? Even though they
7 have not identified the 20 percent, those people,
8 once they identify them, the clock will already
9 have been running. So we would like for the State
10 to identify that group.

11 The other big question for us is,
12 What's happening with the TANF savings? You know,
13 will those dollars that the State has been able to
14 save be reallocated for child welfare services,
15 for use with education and job training, and for
16 other support services that the families will
17 need.

18 One of the key areas that we're
19 concerned about is kinship care. The State has
20 been working for some time now with the Kinship
21 Care Task Force, looking at changing some of State
22 law, looking at guardianship, which is not
23 available in this state right now, for kin to take
24 care of their children.

25 Those kin who are receiving TANF for

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2 both themselves and the child are also going to be
3 reaching that 24-month time period. We are
4 interested in knowing whether those kin could
5 become a part of the 20-percent exemption.

6 As some of you already know, we have
7 about 2,000 children in our system who are in
8 placement with kin. Now, we can pay as much as
9 \$13,000 per year for a family of 2 children to
10 that fact; whereas if they were receiving TANF,
11 they'd get about \$5,000. My concern is that kin
12 will start coming to the Department, not because
13 the children are really dependent but because they
14 will have a way to take care of their kin without
15 having to use up their own TANF resources.

16 And the final thing that I want to
17 mention here about a question, I think someone
18 mentioned it earlier, about the DHS requiring that
19 parents' first responsibility is keeping their
20 kids safe. Well, yes, that's true. And if it's a
21 TANF parent, they have an agreement of mutual
22 responsibility. And if they're a TANF problem in
23 the child welfare system, they also have a family
24 service plan.

25 We've been trying for a long time now

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2 to have those two plans so that they're not in
3 contradiction with each other because we could say
4 to a parent, In order for you to either get your
5 child returned to you, you have to go to parenting
6 classes. And if those classes are during the day
7 and a parent has an Agreement of Mutual
8 Responsibility that says you will work during the
9 day, those two requirements by government are in
10 conflict. And what is the parent to do?

11 So we would like to have, with DPW, a
12 dialogue and an agreement so that our Family
13 Service Plan an our Agreement of Mutual
14 Responsibility are in synch with each other.

15 So those are some of the key issues
16 that we think should be asked along with all the
17 other questions that Council has submitted to
18 Deputy Secretary Heller.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, with respect
20 to the issues you've raised, questions relating to
21 your seeking to get information from DPW, what has
22 been their response when you've asked for that
23 information?

24 In other words, why don't you have that
25 information, what do they say?

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2 COMMISSIONER REEVES: Well, it's not
3 been clear. I mean, I do have to take some
4 responsibility for not pushing and pushing to get
5 it. But as we get closer to the time line, we
6 absolutely need to know who is in both of our
7 systems so that we can provide the support.

8 I am expecting a response from Deputy
9 Secretary Joanne Lauer (ph.), who is in charge of
10 the Office of Children, Youth and Families, which
11 brings up another question -- what's the
12 coordination within DPW between Secretary Heller
13 and Secretary Lauer as they look at the impact of
14 welfare reform on these same families?

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, we would like
16 this committee to work very closely with you so
17 that we're working in the same direction.

18 We do have the feeling that the City
19 approach is much more realistic, and that's
20 probably because the City is where the problems
21 are going to be, if any exist source.

22 And, of course, I'll speak only for
23 myself at this point. It always seemed to me that
24 when the so-called reform welfare reform law was
25 passed, there really was no intention to do

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2 anything other than to just dump a lot of people,
3 get them off of welfare. And nobody, I think,
4 among the active group seeking the so-called
5 welfare reform, I don't think anybody intended to
6 have the kind of programs that you have been
7 developing, that the City has been developing and
8 that all of the advocacy groups have been
9 developing.

10 I think you are succeeding in dealing
11 with the terrible impact that would have occurred,
12 and I just hesitate to think what would have
13 happened if there weren't groups like yours on the
14 alert, you know, in City government, on the alert
15 to prevent the worst from happening.

16 But we want to work with you closely,
17 and we want to work closely with all of the
18 advocacy groups because we've just got to reach
19 the goals that so many of us are talking about,
20 and we can't let, you know, ourselves be a society
21 where people are going to be starving to death or
22 living on the streets. 'Cause I think that's the
23 direction that was originally intended.

24 Councilwoman Tasco?

25 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I just have a

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2 question. Are the other county offices, the
3 Department of Human Services offices, talking to
4 the State? Or do you have all one message, or
5 does it seem to be that it's just Philadelphia
6 raising the question about all of the problems
7 associated with this welfare reform?

8 COMMISSIONER REEVES: I think what has
9 happened, we have 67 counties and 67 different
10 approaches.

11 The TANF program is a State-run
12 program; whereas the Child Welfare Program is a
13 county-run program, which makes it somewhat
14 difficult for the two to really communicate with
15 each other.

16 I do -- I have heard that, you know,
17 places like Allegheny County are very concerned.
18 Some of the smaller counties, I don't know whether
19 their child welfare systems are as concerned as we
20 are because they have fewer children.

21 You know, when someone says either
22 15,000 or 26,000 heads of household, if you look
23 at that as 2-1/2 children minimum average per
24 household, that's a lot of children that will be
25 impacted by this.

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2 So I think here in Philadelphia, the
3 stakes are much, much higher than in some of the
4 other counties.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: I guess my concern
6 is that I get a sense that the Department of
7 Public Welfare in Harrisburg is not listening.
8 And I'm wondering, is it because it's Philadelphia
9 yelling again, and those liberals and do-gooders
10 down there are making the noise, and we don't
11 really know if what they're saying is true or not.

12 That's why I asked if there are other
13 counties across the State. Maybe some of the
14 advocates who will testify will let us know what's
15 happening in other parts of the State relative to
16 this whole issue of welfare reform, because we
17 know what the attitude of Harrisburg is about
18 towards Philadelphia.

19 COMMISSIONER REEVES: Yes.

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very much,
22 Commissioner. We're looking forward to close.
23 Cooperative work.

24 COMMISSIONER REEVES: Thank you. So am
25 I.

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The next panel is
3 going to consist of:

4 Fred Dedrick, Director of the Job
5 Policy Network;

6 Richard Weishaupt, Community Legal
7 Services;

8 Shelly Yanoff, Executive Director
9 Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth;

10 Gloria Guard, Executive Director of
11 People's Emergency Center;

12 And then I would ask Robert McGinley,
13 the Agency Relations Manager for United Way, and
14 Barry Seymour, the Assistant Executive Director of
15 the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
16 to take seats within the. . .

17 Despite the fact that we're in our
18 second day of what had been billed as a one-day
19 hearing, and we still have many witnesses to go,
20 we'd like to urge folks to summarize rather than
21 to read their statements. That, of course, is
22 provided the summary will be shorter than the
23 reading of the statement. Our experience
24 sometimes goes to the contrary.

25 So we'd like your cooperation. We'd

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2 like to get if possible at this stage, we'd like
3 to complete the record so that our staff can study
4 the record, can communicate with various agencies
5 and with the City and with the State and move
6 forward.

7 Mr. Dedrick, would you begin?

8 MR. DEDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
9 My name is Fred Dedrick. I'm Director of the Jobs
10 Policy Network. I want to thank the members of
11 City Council for calling this hearing and for
12 asking us to testify. Copies of my testimony are
13 available and have been distributed so I will try
14 to summarize.

15 The Jobs Policy Network is a
16 broad-based coalition of employers, community
17 organizations, and educational institutions and
18 other groups working together to develop a
19 highly-skilled workforce for greater
20 Philadelphia. Our region is a region with a
21 workforce capable of meeting the needs of the
22 Philadelphia-area employers, but also a region
23 where individuals, because of their education and
24 training, have many opportunities to obtain with
25 wages and benefits sufficient to support a family.

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2 I want to make just three important
3 points today. And, again, this is a summary of my
4 testimony.

5 The first point is, welfare reform must
6 not be examined in isolation. It must be looked
7 at as a component of workforce development.

8 Secondly, workforce development in this
9 city, in this region is absolutely essential to
10 our economic development.

11 And, thirdly, we have the resources to
12 do both of these things: to make welfare
13 workforce development and make workforce
14 development a component of economic development.

15 Prior to this position, I was Director
16 of Economic Development for Greater Philadelphia
17 First. I spent ten years trying to work with
18 companies, trying to attract them to the
19 Philadelphia region. What companies want to see
20 now in a region is not just low taxes or green
21 fields or a nice Center City building, what they
22 care about most is their workforce. Because
23 without a workforce, all those other things are
24 irrelevant.

25 I can also say that in that ten years,

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2 I learned about what our competition is doing.

3 And our competition is beating us badly. In that
4 time, I realized that the state of Tennessee, the
5 state of the North Carolina had two people
6 full-time in Pennsylvania working to attract
7 companies from Pennsylvania to their states. That
8 was their job, to bring companies from
9 Pennsylvania to their states.

10 I can also tell you that the workforce
11 development programs now are a key component of
12 how states try to attract companies from other
13 states and how states compete for companies, for
14 new companies. North Carolina and South Carolina
15 are examples of very, very aggressive states in
16 how they use their community college program.
17 Essentially, if you're going to provide more than
18 50 jobs, they will basically give you free
19 training for all your new employees and do that at
20 no cost to you.

21 I can tell you that the state of
22 Georgia.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: May I interrupt you
24 for a moment. Please, private conversations,
25 please take them out in the hallway. It's

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2 difficult to hear.

3 Go ahead, sir.

4 MR. DEDRICK: Thank you.

5 I can tell you that the state of
6 Georgia takes its lottery proceeds and invests it
7 entirely in education, and it does that in order
8 to provide this benefit: if you have a B average
9 in high school, you can attend any state
10 university in Georgia for free. Now, that's very
11 difficult to compete against.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I think they're
13 wonderful programs.

14 MR. DEDRICK: A wonderful program,
15 absolutely.

16 The point here is that other states are
17 moving very aggressively on investing in their
18 workforce. And if we continue to look at welfare
19 reform in isolation and not look at it as an
20 opportunity to develop the workforce, we'll be
21 missing a very important point.

22 In fact, the governor's Executive Order
23 of December 1997 defines what he would like to see
24 in the workforce system of the state of
25 Pennsylvania, the goals of Pennsylvania's

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2 workforce system. And here are the three goals he
3 lists: economic opportunity for all citizens,
4 economic self-sufficiency and individual
5 responsibility, and an educated workforce with
6 relevant skills.

7 I don't think we'd have much arguments
8 with those goals. It has been stated before,
9 those goals are in contradiction to the welfare
10 reform policies being currently followed by the
11 Department of Public Welfare.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Could you submit to
13 the committee at a later time a specific program
14 that you would like to see adopted with respect to
15 an educated workforce?

16 MR. DEDRICK: Yes, I can do that,
17 Councilman.

18 I think that many of the things that
19 have been stated here today are components to
20 that. The Jobs Policy Network's emergency agenda
21 for welfare reform is part of my testimony. A
22 number of people have already testified in favor
23 of that agenda. And, basically, it goes back to
24 the theme that we've heard for these two days; and
25 that is education and training, that's the only

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2 way we're going to be able to compete.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

4 MR. DEDRICK: An important --

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'm going to ask you
6 to summarize.

7 MR. DEDRICK: Okay.

8 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I'm really trying to
9 make it make possible for everybody to be heard
10 because we have to recess again at 1 o'clock.

11 MR. DEDRICK: Okay, let me get then to
12 the numbers because I think that's really
13 important.

14 In 1994, the Pennsylvania case load hit
15 its peak. There was 788,768 recipients cash
16 assistance. In fiscal year '98, there were
17 463,000. The spending in '94 was at \$1.3
18 billion. The spending at the end of 1998 was at
19 \$773 million. That's a drop of over \$500 million.

20 The surplus that's available currently
21 in the State from TANF and from the savings on the
22 State maintenance of effort requirement provide
23 significant funding for all the State could want
24 to do in education and training.

25 The important thing is to change Act 35

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2 so that we can use those resources for education
3 and training for the workforce and thereby allow
4 them to move into self-sufficiency.

5 The bottom line is simply how many
6 people since March of 1997 have moved into
7 self-sufficiency. The State cannot answer that,
8 but that is the right because that's what the
9 State's Act 35 requirement is, it's right in the
10 legislation, self-sufficiency. That's what the
11 governor says is the goal of the workforce,
12 self-sufficiency.

13 So unless we have those outcomes, we
14 really cannot judge whether the program's a
15 success.

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you. Let that
17 be your conclusion. Thank you very much, it's
18 been very helpful.

19 Mr. Weishaupt.

20 MR. WEISHAAPT: Thank you. My name is
21 Richard Weishaupt. I'm a senior attorney with
22 Community Legal Services. And I thank you for the
23 opportunity to testify here today.

24 I want to make a couple of points just
25 in passing, and then we can go back over them, if

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2 you have any interest in doing so.

3 I want to talk about the nitty-gritty
4 of what happens in March of '99. Not because the
5 other questions particularly --

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, go right ahead
7 and tell us about it.

8 MR. WEISHAUP: Okay, all right. We've
9 got some number of people, at least 15,000,
10 probably more like 25,000 people who are going to
11 have to be doing something that looks like work
12 for 20 hours a week. Most of those people will
13 not get jobs in the sense of, you know, you go
14 there, you get paid from your employer, and it
15 looks and feels like a job with salary.

16 Most of those people will also not be
17 in the special programs that the City has
18 designed. Most of those people are going to be in
19 a program that is euphemistically called
20 "community service," which is basically workfare,
21 okay?

22 We still don't know even what the
23 standards are for those slots, whether people can
24 -- how it can be exploitative or not, who can
25 sponsor those slots, who's going to pay for the

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2 Worker's Compensation for those slots, even where,
3 if I'm a parent and I need to be working the 20
4 hours a week and I have no problem with that, and
5 I just say, Look, I cannot find a job, where do I
6 go to volunteer? Maybe I'll pick up some skills,
7 maybe I'll make some connections. There isn't
8 even a clear plan right now, less than four months
9 before this starts, there isn't a plan for where I
10 can go and look.

11 What Deputy Secretary Heller talks
12 about is, Well, we're going to give people
13 personal responsibility to go out. So they're
14 going to be knocking on the door of your
15 Councilmatic offices, of Community Legal Services
16 office, of Fred's office, of Gloria's office, of
17 all these different offices.

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I don't like to
19 interrupt, but is it possible for you to put forth
20 a program that you think meets the needs that
21 you're talking about? We've heard -- you know, we
22 know that we face calamitous things.

23 MR. WEISHAUP: At the very least,
24 Councilman, what we need to do is for DPW to put
25 their cards on the table so that somebody can take

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2 charge. So that, yes, I would be willing to help,
3 as would a number of people in this room, to help
4 design a program that services people's need.

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I would like to urge
6 that that be done.

7 MR. WEISHAUP: We've been banging
8 heads on that for a long time, and so far,
9 nothing.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, I think it may
11 be different if the City and the Council can
12 cooperate.

13 MR. WEISHAUP: I think so.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: But we would like to
15 receive from you as soon as possible what you
16 think needs to be done in a specific program.
17 Don't tell us how bad the conditions are going to
18 be if it's not done because we know that.

19 But we want to know what you are
20 suggesting has to be done. 'Cause we think
21 Community Legal Services probably is in the best
22 position of any one group to have an overall
23 picture of everything. If it includes legislation
24 or a change in regulations, I think you ought to
25 deal with that.

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2 MR. WEISHAAPT: Okay.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Because we need a
4 working program, because I don't have any
5 confidence in bureaucracy in general, whether it's
6 State, City, or even City Council bureaucracy to
7 achieve it.

8 MR. WEISHAAPT: Okay.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: But you are living
10 with the problems in the field, and I think you
11 can develop that program.

12 All right, would you undertake that?
13 And could you undertake on behalf of the Community
14 Legal Services to play a central role in helping
15 to bring groups together to do that?

16 MR. WEISHAAPT: Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you. Shelly.

18 MR. WEISHAAPT: One more thing not.

19 (Unidentified person addresses
20 committee members off-mike.)

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You can testify as
22 soon as they finish here.

23 (Same person continues to address
24 committee members off-mike.)

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You will be able to

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2 but let's finish with this.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Mr. Weishaupt, go
4 ahead.

5 MR. WEISHAAPT: A couple other points.

6 (Same person continues to address
7 committee members off-mike.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Excuse me, could
9 you please --

10 (Same person continues to address
11 committee members off-mike.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: You will have an
13 opportunity to testify. Let us finish with this
14 panel, please.

15 (Same person continues to address
16 committee members off-mike.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you very
18 much. Could we move on, please?

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Mr. Weishaupt,
21 would you please sum it up.

22 MR. WEISHAAPT: Sure.

23 Councilman Cohen asked Secretary Heller
24 about a way to avoid sanctions, and that's
25 something that's very important. A lot of the

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2 families that are in danger of being sanctioned
3 are going to be on the case load of the Department
4 of Health and Human Services and, I'm sorry, in
5 (unintelligible) organization at DHS.

6 And we need as a city to recognize the
7 fact, I think, that the State isn't going to do
8 much to avoid sanctioning people, and we need to
9 make our organization -- the City's organizations
10 as well as the nonprofits and organizations like
11 myself out there so that we can prevent people
12 from being sanctioned. And you know the reasons
13 why. Because data in other states suggests that
14 it is families like the families that are
15 connected with DHS that most frequently fall
16 victims to being sanctioned.

17 We also need to pay particular
18 attention to organizations that deal with the
19 homeless, that deal with disabled children and
20 with domestic violence. Do you know that in
21 Philadelphia, the Welfare Department has been able
22 to find only six families that have been victims
23 of domestic violence so that they can exempt them
24 from the work requirements.

25 Six? I mean, I knew we had made

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2 progress in the field of domestic violence, but I
3 didn't realize we'd gone so far that there are
4 only six families that the can find in their
5 entire case load that have any connection.

6 We also need to pay attention to the
7 needs of language minorities. The literature
8 suggesting -- and The New York Times has written
9 some articles on this, that as the case loads have
10 declined, one of the groups that gets left behind
11 most often are people in language minorities
12 because, basically, they offer them all these
13 programs, only in English. And so, surprise,
14 surprise, who's left? People who don't speak
15 English very well.

16 And we need to pay attention to that
17 because I'm afraid what's going to happen is
18 March 3rd's going to come and people are going to
19 be sent letters in English saying, Do this or
20 else, and they're not going to understand what
21 they mean, and they're going to get cut off.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very much.
23 Shelly Yanoff.

24 MS. YANOFF: Good morning. I'm Shelly
25 Yanoff. I'm the Director of Philadelphia Citizens

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2 for Children and Youth, the region's child
3 advocacy organization.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I think I'm going to
5 ask you to read your statement; I think we'll do
6 better that way.

7 MS. YANOFF: Okay. I'll let that go.
8 I'd like to tell you that our kids are being
9 watched out for.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: That was a
11 compliment; that was not a --

12 MS. YANOFF: Right. That Pennsylvania
13 has made sure that kids whose families go off
14 welfare are keeping their health-care coverage;
15 that families on welfare with chronically ill
16 children, of there are a substantial number if
17 Philadelphia and nationally, are being exempted
18 from at least the two-year State work requirement
19 and being considered for the 20 percent exemption
20 from the 5-year limit.

21 I'd like to be able to tell you that
22 there are special programs and special
23 consideration for the large number of welfare
24 recipients that Rich just referred to in
25 Philadelphia for whom English is not their first

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2 language, and the City estimates that that is over
3 20 percent.

4 I'd like to tell you that families,
5 mothers who go off welfare, all know they're
6 entitled to help with child care, that the State
7 is not planning to increase the cost of child care
8 to them or make it harder for those who are
9 working part-time to get child care.

10 I'd like to you tell you that there's
11 no waiting list for subsidized child care, that
12 the State has used up all its allocated funds in
13 child care, and that there's no increase in child
14 abuse reports.

15 But if I told you any of those things,
16 I would be lying. 'Cause none of them is true.

17 I'd be lying because the welfare
18 caseworkers do not themselves get nor give clear
19 messages. The information they have to give is
20 complicated, and they're too overwhelmed to be
21 able to provide the kind of assistance the
22 families with whom they are dealing need. They
23 also don't appear to have the tools to do the job.

24 In our own United Way study, soon to be
25 released, people who do not understand English or

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2 who are unable to read were being sent on
3 fruitless job searches. We found families who
4 lost jobs because of sick children or because they
5 didn't have child care and didn't know what to do
6 or how to get it. We found people who needed a
7 lot of education or at times just a little bit
8 more being told they had to quit school go to
9 work.

10 Case after case that were interviewed
11 told us they did not know they had a benefit
12 available to them, they didn't understand what
13 they were signing in their contract, or they
14 thought their children's health benefits had a
15 time and use limit where they thought they
16 couldn't get child care.

17 The State has not communicated its
18 messages simply, and it hasn't communicated them
19 at all in many cases.

20 Because for many years, Medicaid was
21 tied to welfare -- and I just want to take a
22 minute on this because even members of Council do
23 not seem to understand it. Medicaid for children
24 is not subject to a time limit. As long as your
25 income is low income, children in the City and

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2 State are covered for health insurance.

3 We gained so much in this country on
4 children's health expansion in the last two years,
5 but people are not taking advantage of it because
6 they don't understand it. Recognizing the danger
7 of this, Congress passed special appropriations
8 for Medicaid outreach to the post-welfare
9 population. But our state has not drawn down
10 those dollars.

11 We know that there are slightly more
12 than 10,000 families or about 20,000 fewer
13 children receiving welfare today than there were
14 last year. These children all should have health
15 insurance coverage. Yet there are almost 8,000
16 fewer children in Philadelphia receiving health
17 insurance through Medicaid now than there were
18 last year.

19 Unfortunately, health insurance for
20 kids is tracking the drop in cash assistance. In
21 total, we've lost almost 20,000 kids from health
22 insurance since 1996. And that's at a time when
23 Medicaid eligibility was rising. We are not
24 making sure, as are California and Massachusetts
25 and other states, that children's health is

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2 protected when their parents go off welfare.

3 Without a major effort on the part of
4 the City and State, poor children will continue to
5 suffer the consequences, and emergency rooms,
6 health clinics, and hospitals in the poorest
7 communities will be expected to be the doctor of
8 choice, and somehow, the communities will have to
9 pick up the bill.

10 Already, we are seeing a sharp
11 increase, something like 25 percent, of children
12 without insurance in our health clinics.

13 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What would the City
14 need to do -- the State obviously doesn't care
15 about Philadelphia children. What could the City
16 do?

17 MS. YANOFF: The City needs to apply
18 pressure to the State, in the first instance, to
19 combine the Medicaid and CHIP programs and do
20 simple advertising. Health insurance is
21 available. Very simply just call this number.
22 And there should be one simple application.

23 If I have three children and one is
24 eligible for CHIP and two are eligible for
25 Medicaid, I should be able to make one application

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2 out, and the State and the City should work
3 together to put the applications in the right
4 boxes, but my coverage should be maintained. And
5 there's no reason -- the money is there, there's
6 no reason not to do it, except to really, in the
7 long run, inhibit people from getting health care
8 for their kids.

9 Every time a cash case is closed by the
10 State, the State should assure that health
11 insurance is kept open for children. Parents
12 should be informed that their children are
13 automatically still covered and that they won't
14 need to reapply for a year. And when they need to
15 reapply, they can do it by mail. Because we want
16 people to take care of their kids' health, and we
17 want them to avoid having to lose work to apply
18 for care. And the message must be simple.

19 Concerning child care, again, the
20 message needs to be clear and the reality needs to
21 be better. If we want parents to work, we have to
22 provide child care. Providing more child care and
23 making the process simpler is critical. It is not
24 simply enough and there's not enough child care,
25 and it's too costly.

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2 In the last year, more child care is
3 indeed being subsidized by the State and federal
4 government, but there's still a substantial
5 waiting list of more than 3,000 children in
6 Philadelphia alone, 3,000 children are on the
7 waiting list for subsidized child care.

8 And this is as of Friday: In northwest
9 Philadelphia, Councilwoman Tasco's and Councilman
10 Cohen, 851 people, kids, are on the waiting list
11 for child care. In west Philadelphia, 535. In
12 south, 577. In north, 630.

13 So we're telling everybody to go out to
14 get work. And we're telling low-income workers
15 that we'll help them with subsidized child care,
16 and then we help them by putting them on a waiting
17 list. That doesn't make sense.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Is there any truth
19 to the rumor that women who are working and have
20 child care, their children are being taken off
21 welfare to provide day care for welfare TANF
22 workers?

23 MS. YANOFF: What is true is that if I
24 apply for child care now, I get a higher priority
25 if I'm coming off welfare than if I am and have

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2 never been on welfare before but I'm very
3 low-income. And those are the bulk of the waiting
4 list, although not all.

5 It is also true that the State has
6 \$20 million of unallocated -- of allocated -- I'm
7 sorry, of appropriated funds for child care that
8 it is not using. And that is one of the things
9 that should be changed right away.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. YANOFF: Concerning child care, we
12 recommend three steps:

13 First, Pennsylvania should follow the
14 examples of Illinois and Rhode Island, among
15 others, and say it will provide child care for all
16 low-income workers. For about \$11 million, the
17 State can wipe out Philadelphia's current waiting
18 list. That's a little more than half, just
19 slightly more than half of what is the
20 unappropriated child care fund, the surplus that
21 the State has for child care.

22 Second, the State has proposed child
23 care regulations that set parent copays higher
24 than that of the overwhelming majority of states.
25 Currently, we have a good system, but the State is

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2 proposing to make it much harder and much more
3 expensive for a low-income family to have to pay
4 for child care.

5 It doesn't make sense. I've got the
6 data in here. But, basically, we are going into
7 being more expensive than the overwhelming
8 majority of states. That doesn't make sense. The
9 State should reconsider and reject its proposals.

10 And those proposal are coming up on
11 Thursday. (Unintelligible) is going to consider
12 them, there's a hearing. We would urge all our
13 delegation to reject those proposals because it
14 doesn't make sense to say you want women to work
15 and, oh, yeah, we're going to raise the cost of
16 your copays.

17 Thirdly, the State should provide
18 subsidies for those parents who leave welfare to
19 go to work and are working 20 hours a week.
20 Another proposed change in the regulations of
21 child care is that nobody will be able to get
22 subsidized child care unless they're working 25
23 hours a week rather than just 20 hours a week.

24 Now, that makes no sense. I mean,
25 hours is how many hours you're supposed to be

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2 working 20 hours a week is what people are --
3 there are lots of jobs that people can get for
4 that. We ought to be able to support and not
5 create obstacles for families.

6 As we've mentioned, we've found many
7 families whose children have chronic illnesses.
8 Both the State and the City have to take steps to
9 protect these children -- to assist in helping
10 with child care if necessary, to waive or exempt
11 their parents from work requirements. Society has
12 not helped when mothers work and children are more
13 at risk.

14 We should look carefully at the
15 increase of cost in the child abuse and neglect
16 system. As Commissioner Reeves suggested, kinship
17 care is very popular, we hope it will continue to
18 be a way of caring for your family if the parents
19 can't provide for them.

20 It makes no sense to put kids more at
21 risk because TANF may be threatening the people
22 who would take them in. We should recognize the
23 burden and the responsibility that family members
24 are taking when they take in kids and not have
25 those families being subject to being inhibited

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2 from taking kids over, taking care of kids.

3 Finally, we must recognize that a good
4 job requires, preparation and education. And
5 others before me have talked about the critical
6 importance of counting education as a work
7 requirement, of stretching the State's definition
8 of work.

9 In several weeks, we will release our
10 study with the United Way study of 50 families who
11 have been experiencing the system, whom we've
12 interviewed a lot. And we will talk with you
13 again about those findings. But it is amazing to
14 look at and read the stories of lots of --
15 hundreds of people and see they fall into so many
16 of the categories that public policy could and
17 should address.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very much.

21 MS. TOMLINSON: Hi, I'm Beth
22 Tomlinson. I'm with United Way, and I'm here
23 representing United Way instead of Robert
24 McGinley.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Go ahead.

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2 MS. TOMLINSON: Good afternoon. My
3 name, again, is Beth Tomlinson. I'm representing
4 United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania. And the
5 other PCCY and United Way work on a project called
6 "Watching out for Children in Changing Times,"
7 which is funded by the William Penn Foundation.
8 And it's an ongoing initiative to track how
9 changes in public policy impact the lives of kids,
10 families, and service-providers across our
11 metropolitan area.

12 And not to duplicate what everyone's
13 already said before, I'm going to scratch out a
14 lot of it this, so you don't have to give me the
15 sum-up warning.

16 I think the key thing that's a little
17 bit different from what others have said, I want
18 to talk about how the nonprofit community is being
19 impacted by welfare reform.

20 From an annual survey we've done every
21 year for now the third year, with over 70 United
22 Way-funded nonprofit children and family-serving
23 organizations, we've learned over the past few
24 years how agencies are really struggling to
25 survive and succeed under this new welfare reform.

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2 From our most recent survey. We learned
3 that over half (55 percent) of these agencies are
4 serving many more clients, more kids and families
5 each year, every year. The waiting lists for
6 services are increasing for the third year in a
7 row. While many agencies are receiving more
8 funding in the last year, only one-fifth saw only
9 minimal budget increases, and 12 percent saw less
10 funding over last year.

11 And, most importantly with regard to
12 funding, public sources for funding remain very,
13 very hard to reach for six in ten of these
14 agencies. So while a lot of this increase is as a
15 result of public policy changes, the public sector
16 has not necessarily provided the resources they
17 need to.

18 Yet, while demand for services has
19 increased dramatically, while the funding hasn't
20 necessarily increased for most, a core group of
21 nonprofit agencies are doing more and doing
22 differently to better support families as they
23 attempt to transition from welfare to work.

24 For example, one-third of the agencies
25 are increasing their service hours, adding weekend

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2 hour, evening hours to accommodate parents in job
3 searches who are not working. Close to half are
4 making their services more community-based to
5 remove access barriers to accessing services.
6 They're finding more services in clients' homes or
7 in their neighborhoods. One-third are adding new
8 services, and about six in ten of those new
9 services focus on meeting welfare clients' job
10 training, counseling, placement and adult
11 education needs.

12 Yet, while so many of these nonprofit
13 agencies are really struggling to reach out to
14 families with new needs, four in ten are doing so
15 with no increase in staff salary, and almost all
16 are doing so with the same staffing levels. So
17 agencies and staff are being stretched even
18 thinner to increased need for services and to meet
19 new needs for clients now subject to welfare
20 (unintelligible) requirements and time limits.

21 And I've provided you with copies of
22 those survey findings if you'd like to look at
23 them.

24 In addition, the United Way and PCCY
25 are also tracking, as Shelly mentioned, 50

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2 families on welfare over 2 years, meeting with
3 each family on an individual basis every 6
4 months. So we're really being able to track over
5 time how these families are faring under the new
6 system.

7 And the findings are really true to
8 what everyone's already said. Half have no GED or
9 a high school degree. Most have sick children at
10 home, chronically sick children at home. About 10
11 percent are non-English speakers.

12 And all of those families, as Richard
13 mentioned a little bit earlier, all of those
14 families have never been referred by their welfare
15 caseworker to English-as-a-Second-Language courses
16 so while their a primary barrier to getting a job
17 and keeping a job is English, they've received no
18 guidance or recommendations from their welfare
19 caseworker in regard to that.

20 The vast majority of families, as Carol
21 Goertzel mentioned earlier in her report, they
22 don't understand the work requirements, they don't
23 understand their agreement for mutual
24 responsibility, they're not aware of their
25 continuing benefits. They think they lose their

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2 health-care coverage, their food stamps if they
3 start working.

4 And most are not aware, particularly
5 aware of their child-care benefits. The vast
6 majority of families we interviewed thought that
7 once they got a job, they automatically had to pay
8 for child care on their own, which is already, as
9 we've seen since we re-interviewed these families,
10 we've already seen a lot of families lose their
11 job, lose the part-time job they worked hard to
12 get simply because they were paying out of pocket
13 for child-care expenses, not knowing that they had
14 child-care subsidies available to them.

15 I think that's --

16 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Can you summarize
17 now, please.

18 MS. TOMLINSON: That's it. I'll
19 conclude there.

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you. All
21 right.

22 Are you going to testify? Why don't
23 you come up to the microphone.

24 We thank this panel very much. Gloria
25 Guard, will you also come to the microphone. Mr.

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2 Weishaupt, why don't you stay there, there may be
3 some questions. And, Shelly, I'd appreciate it if
4 you could stay there too.

5 MS. GUARD: I'm Gloria Guard, from
6 People's Emergency Center. And with me is Nateria
7 Morrison, who will testify immediately after me.
8 And we brought copies of our testimony, which
9 we'll be happy to give you, but I just thought I
10 would run through quickly, try not to repeat what
11 people before me said.

12 I do want to, as a backdrop, remind all
13 of us that we live in a society that's based on
14 the rich getting richer while the poor are getting
15 poorer and that we could never have full
16 employment as long as we particularly have mergers
17 and acquisitions, the rape of Allegheny Hospital
18 Systems --

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I couldn't agree
20 with you more.

21 MS. GUARD: I know and I know I'm
22 preaching to the converted here.

23 But nevertheless, it's against this
24 backdrop, which I think has gotten much worse over
25 the past five years that the most vulnerable of

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2 our society will now be thrust.

3 So we end up here today suggesting ways
4 of tinkering with a terrible situation. And no
5 matter what happens, I think that places like PEC
6 are going to be full to the brim, and we're going
7 to turn into the alms houses of the 21st century.
8 And we don't want to get there, but we may end up
9 may doing that.

10 I also just want to warn us not to get
11 into the inevitable fights of the poor pitting
12 themselves the almost-poor, union workers against
13 the, you know, first-time workers, as we fight
14 over relatively few jobs in this terribly
15 difficult situation. And it's that kind of thing
16 that's already raising its head.

17 That's why Marian already asked about
18 the business of people waiting for day care, the
19 TANF people versus the other low-income people.
20 And I just want to warn all of us that these
21 fights will come, and we will end up fighting with
22 each other and forgetting the larger picture.

23 So that being said, I actually had
24 wanted to say that the Jobs Policy Network has
25 done an excellent job of really listing out a

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2 great agenda for us.

3 I wanted to specifically call out a few
4 problem that we've been having in trying to help
5 homeless women get into the workplace, the first
6 of which is that under the Greater Philadelphia
7 Works plan, women that we work with will have to
8 find a job, take a job for 20 hours a week, and
9 then go to job-training afterwards.

10 This is the classic cart-before-the-
11 horse kind of approach. It will not work. We
12 can't expect people to go to work who've never
13 been to work and then go to job-training later.
14 If there is anything that can be done within the
15 Greater Philadelphia Works within what they're
16 doing to relieve that kind of strange thinking, we
17 would really appreciate it.

18 Otherwise, we have PEC have raised half
19 a million of other money to send people to
20 job-training who are not going to be able to use
21 those private and federal monies because the women
22 that we work with will have to take some
23 community-service job instead of don't going to
24 job-training.

25 We want to also point out that

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2 regardless of the terrible backup in the
3 child-care system, which Shelly talked about, even
4 if somebody is eligible for and receives a
5 child-care subsidy DPA, the Welfare Department, it
6 frequently takes three or four or five months to
7 get that straightened out in that system.

8 So what happens is, a child-care
9 provider sort of depends on the money coming in,
10 and they're there having to take care of this
11 child with no money coming in 'cause the subsidy
12 isn't triggered yet. It's just a paperwork
13 problem, and there's really no reason for that
14 glitch to be in the system and for people to have
15 to wait that long.

16 I would also like to commend all of the
17 work that's being done on child care. And,
18 unfortunately, there's a tremendous amount that
19 has to be done because the latest plan is so bad.
20 And I'd like to commend the Friday Inquirer, the
21 editorial to all of you which really lays out a
22 lot; in fact, confirms a lot of what Shelly was
23 talking about, and is full of facts.

24 Another item on the child-care end is
25 that we at PEC are trying to develop a large

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2 child-care facility and build something. And
3 we're willing and able to raise private money to
4 do that. When we asked the State about money so
5 there's a new child building, we're looking at a
6 \$2 million building. They showed us this pot of
7 money that they so virtuously set aside from which
8 we can get \$7500. Then again, other people can
9 get \$300, so that's how they're helping to expand
10 the capacity.

11 Those really are my points. As quickly
12 as I can, I'd like to introduce Nateria just
13 quickly to talk about what it takes to get from
14 here to there.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very much.

16 (Nateria Morrison comes forward.)

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Please identify
18 yourself for the record and the proceed with your
19 testimony.

20 MS. MORRISON: My name is Nateria
21 Morrison.

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Go ahead.

23 MS. MORRISON: Good morning, President
24 Street and members of City Council. My name is
25 Nateria Morrison. I am a formerly mother of two

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2 children and a former welfare recipient. I became
3 homeless in the spring of 1995. My apartment had
4 become in many ways unlivable. I had also
5 discovered that the children of my father (sic)
6 was using drugs and wasn't doing whatever he
7 needed to take care of his habit.

8 I stayed at different shelters before
9 coming to PEC. I believe to this day that the
10 Lord worked a miracle in my life by bringing me to
11 PEC. I lived there for 18 months, participated in
12 the PEC programs. PEC's educational programs and
13 transitional housing helped me gain the knowledge
14 and experience I needed to become permanently
15 independent.

16 Just this year, I graduated from PEC's
17 jobs program and am now employed in a full-time
18 secretarial job that offers medical benefits. I
19 consider myself lucky that I have some educational
20 background and was able to get the training
21 necessary to obtain a job.

22 I'm here to express my feelings about
23 the new rules that require families to move
24 quickly from welfare to work. I feel this planned
25 reform has not been carefully thought out.

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2 Throwing mothers off welfare will hurt more than
3 help because moms do not have the experience or
4 training to prepare for the working world. They
5 have limited access to child care and
6 transportation. Many face serious personal
7 obstacles to employment and PEC's is not big
8 enough to help them all.

9 Also, the new rules say that mothers
10 must get a job first, then go to training. This
11 will be particularly impossible for mothers living
12 in shelters. It is very difficult to balance your
13 life when living in a shelter and to hold job
14 too. I believe that mothers in shelters should be
15 allowed to attend counseling and training before
16 they are forced into a job which may not be the
17 right one for them.

18 I have been fortunate. Not all mothers
19 on welfare are so fortunate. I ask you to
20 carefully consider all aspects of their situations
21 as we face the new implementation of the new
22 welfare rules.

23 Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very much.

25 (Applause.)

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2 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Any questions from
3 any members of the panel?

4 (No questions.)

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: You know, I'm kind
6 of overwhelmed by all the different needs that
7 there are. And I guess that's the reason I'm
8 agitating for specific programs so that we know
9 what we're going to request from the State
10 Department of Public Welfare, what we have to
11 request from many other departments. The federal
12 government is involved in the Medicaid, what we
13 have to do to bring all the parties together to
14 deal with that special problem. I'm not picking
15 out any one problem; there seems to be just an
16 enormous number of problems, each one of which is
17 very complicated.

18 Shelly?

19 MS. YANOFF: If City Council would sign
20 a resolution or a letter to go to the Independent
21 Regulatory Commission that is holding hearings on
22 Thursday, and this is actually Richard's idea,
23 saying reject the proposed changes in the
24 child-care rules, do not make it more expensive
25 for families to get child care, that would be one

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2 thing.

3 Additionally, if you would call on the
4 State to use all of its child-care dollars so we
5 don't have the near-poor and the very poor
6 fighting against each other, it would be a very
7 big advance. We call on the State to say, Make
8 one system and one application for health care for
9 kids, and underscore that health care for kids has
10 no time limit, we would be advancing at least some
11 of it.

12 And next, if we are worried about
13 what's going to happen to kids when their families
14 are thrown off welfare, as if kids and their
15 families can be separated, we've got to have --
16 you've got to require that the State come down and
17 identify who is going -- who is being ended --
18 whose cash assistance is being ended and what is
19 happening to their children, 'cause there is no
20 plan in Pennsylvania or Philadelphia to do that.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: If you can get
22 drafts of those letters to us, Councilwoman Tasco
23 and I will send out those letters. Our Council
24 session is not until there's. And if we can get
25 additional Councilmembers to sign them, we will

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2 also do that. If we could get those letters and
3 any, Mr. Weishaupt, that you pay feel, in addition
4 to that specific information, this Council
5 committee will move forward. We've been
6 authorized to do that.

7 And since actions are occurring
8 Thursday, I think it's very important. I'm sure
9 Councilman Ortiz will sign it, and I think there
10 will be a number of other Councilmembers prepared
11 to sign the letter, chairs of different
12 committees.

13 MS. YANOFF: Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN COHEN: And I hope that
15 begins to move the process forward.

16 We thank you all very much.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The next panel is
19 going to be the panel of:

20 John Dodds, Executive Director of the
21 Philadelphia Unemployment Project;

22 Reverend Lynn Lampen of the Episcopal
23 Community Services;

24 Rose Evans, the current recipient of
25 Mothers on the Move;

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2 And Rabbi Lina Zerbarini of the Jewish
3 Community Relations Council.

4 (Above panel comes forward.)

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Okay, Mr. Seymour,
6 go ahead.

7 MR. SEYMOUR: My name is Barry Seymour,
8 I'm Assistant Executive Director at the Delaware
9 Valley Regional Planning Commission.

10 I was asked to speak specifically to
11 the issue of transportation. It's an issue that
12 Mayor Rendell raised in his opening statement and
13 a number of other speakers have spoken about.

14 In some regards, it's curious that the
15 welfare reform has created a new interest in
16 reverse commute, in bringing City workers out to
17 the suburbs, when there really have been forces
18 under way for a number of years that have created
19 these needs.

20 As recently as 1970, the City of
21 Philadelphia accounted for 45 percent of all the
22 jobs in the 9-county metropolitan area. Today
23 that figure is closer to 25 percent. The net
24 result during this period was a swing of 1 million
25 jobs, a loss of 250,000 jobs in Philadelphia, and

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2 an increase of more than 750,000 jobs in the
3 suburbs. As you said last week, Councilman Cohen,
4 the issue really is one of jobs. During the same
5 period, of course, this concentration of poverty
6 within the City was exacerbated.

7 Now, almost 40 percent of all
8 Philadelphia households do not own a car, and the
9 vast majority of welfare households are carless
10 and transit-dependent. Our public transit system,
11 while one of largest in the country, was designed
12 to bring suburban workers into Center City and
13 does not easily accommodate these City commuters
14 back out to the suburbs. We have found in our
15 analysis, however, that two-thirds of the region's
16 major employers and about two-thirds of all jobs
17 are now located within a quarter mile of existing
18 transit lines.

19 So what we have is an increasing
20 welfare population concentrated in the City,
21 isolated from these regional job opportunities but
22 with much of the infrastructure already in place
23 to begin to address the problem. Clearly, if
24 there is an issue which requires a regional
25 approach and regional solutions, this is it.

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2 We believe that while local economic
3 development must be the first priority in order to
4 place all possible workers and meet the State and
5 federal deadlines, Philadelphia must take full
6 advantage of the potential to make placements
7 transit-accessible, entry-level, suburban, and New
8 Jersey jobs.

9 One project that we recently undertook
10 in the past year is an examination of commuting
11 issues between the states. Should we live already
12 in a regional labor market, every day over 150,000
13 people cross the Delaware River to go to work.

14 As a first step, we looked at job
15 centers in the suburbs that could be accessible by
16 transit, and we found, for Philadelphia residents,
17 there are 15 distinct employment centers in
18 southern New Jersey which are accessible by
19 transit from Philadelphia within 60 minutes,
20 utilizing either New Jersey transit or PATCO,
21 containing an estimated 275,000 jobs.

22 And I make this point because while
23 there's been a lot of attention and discussion
24 about looking west towards King of Prussia and
25 beyond as job centers, Cherry Hill and the

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2 employment centers of southern New Jersey are in
3 many ways closer and more accessible.

4 One primary result of this analysis is
5 that while not every welfare recipient will be
6 able to access every job in every employment
7 center, there is substantial evidence that the
8 existing transit network, with some enhancements,
9 is capable of supporting a significant level of
10 bi-state and reverse commuting.

11 I'd like to bring to Council's
12 attention a recent federal initiative under the
13 new T-21 federal transportation legislation called
14 "The Job Access and Reverse Commute Competitive
15 Grants Program." This is a new program
16 administered by the Federal Transit Administration
17 that will make \$75 million available nationwide
18 this year, increasing to \$150 million per year in
19 several years from now.

20 This program encourages flexibility and
21 innovation, not only by the transit agencies but
22 by other providers of transportation services and
23 requires a regional job access in a
24 reverse-commute transportation plan. The deadline
25 for this application is fast-approaching. We had

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2 a coordination meeting with about 60 people in our
3 office this past Friday. Applications are due to
4 the Federal Transit Administration December 31st
5 and require a letter of intent submitted to our
6 office as the coordinator by November 30th.

7 One element to this program, as I
8 mentioned, is the requirement for a regional plan,
9 and I won't get into this in detail, but we'll
10 provide that for Council staff to review at a
11 later date. We have some principles of how to
12 improve transportation services that we believe
13 can increase accessibility to the suburbs.

14 Given the short time, I'd like to just
15 conclude with a few points. While much has been
16 made of the importance of transportation in
17 welfare reform, we believe it is really only one
18 small element to the equation.

19 Problems of lack of job-readiness and
20 social skills, job training, child care,
21 affordable housing, and a more comprehensive
22 regional economic development policy and a
23 national urban policy designed to bring jobs back
24 into the City are really at the core of this
25 issue.

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2 Having said that, I believe it's also
3 uncertain that if these expanded transit services
4 or even non-traditional will really keep people
5 connected to jobs. While people may tolerate an
6 hour commute for a good job, I must ask, can this
7 be sustained for an entry-level perhaps
8 minimum-wage job, especially for a single mother
9 dealing with child-care logistics.

10 A key challenge in --

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Are you going to be
12 summarizing?

13 MR. SEYMOUR: Yes, I am. A key
14 challenge here is to create services that will be
15 sustainable over time, and not just available
16 while there's demonstration money.

17 We'll be looking to make connections
18 with employers and other groups early on and to
19 focus on roots with a broader potential ridership.

20 Finally. I'd say that all of these
21 services will cost money and will take time to
22 become established and operational, two elements
23 which none of us have enough of. The federal
24 program I described requires a 50 percent match.

25 I urge Council to look to any means to

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2 combine funding streams and be creative to provide
3 these services, and to urge the State of
4 Pennsylvania and Congress to extend the timetable
5 for implementation.

6 Thank you.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Just one suggestion
8 to you if it makes any sense, and that is if you
9 would prepare a letter to both SEPTA and to Mayor
10 Rendell but to the attention of Denise Goren, the
11 City's Transportation Director, and send copies to
12 us. And if you indicate what actions are to be
13 taken right away to begin moving the program, this
14 committee would be happy to get the thing
15 underway.

16 MR. SEYMOUR: I'll do that.

17 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All right, thank
18 you, sir.

19 Miss Evans?

20 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Before she goes, I
21 was sitting here thinking. Earlier we heard all
22 these statistics of about how unready the welfare
23 recipients are for employment and the lack of
24 education and training. And you made the point at
25 the end about the jobs being available in the

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2 suburban areas.

3 But if the welfare recipient isn't
4 prepared to take the job, I don't know how many
5 passengers you'll have to go to those areas. And
6 it seems to me our efforts should be one of
7 creating jobs here in the City and having the
8 employment pool for those people to work in the
9 City, without sending them out to the suburban
10 areas, which I don't really --

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Because if you
13 create the market and you create the
14 transportation to the suburbs, then you don't
15 create the motivation for companies to come into
16 the City.

17 So we want people to work in
18 Philadelphia, we want to the jobs to come to
19 Philadelphia, but we have to have the pool of
20 employees ready to go work in Philadelphia. So if
21 they're not ready to work in Philadelphia, they're
22 not ready to go to the suburban areas either.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: A very apt
25 observation by Councilwoman Tasco.

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2 Miss Evans?

3 (Rose Evans comes forward.)

4 MS. EVANS: My name is Rose Evans. I'm
5 a welfare mother, I'm an active member of MOMS.
6 MOMS is a newly formed project of --

7 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Speak into the
8 mike, please.

9 MS. EVANS: Okay.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Pull the microphone
11 as close to you as possible.

12 MS. EVANS: All right, I'll start
13 again.

14 My name is Rose Evans. I'm a welfare
15 mother, I'm an active member of MOMS, "Mothers on
16 the Move." Mothers on the Move is a newly-formed
17 project, a Philadelphia unemployment project. We
18 are welfare mothers, concerned community members
19 who are dedicated to educating and empowering each
20 other with information that will affect our lives.
21 We hope to bring about meaningful changes and a
22 higher quality of living.

23 I'm a proud mother of three daughters
24 ages 23, 20, 16, and a granddaughter 6.

25 Before I ready my testimony, I would

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2 like to ask two questions: Is there anyone here
3 among the people that make decisions for us and
4 have been on welfare?

5 Have any of the policy-makers ever
6 taken the time to communicate with the different
7 types of welfare recipients to find out how to
8 reform the welfare system?

9 I ask these questions because --

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. EVANS: I ask these questions
12 because when I apply for jobs, I am asked, Do I
13 have a degree or experience to qualify me for the
14 position? We would like to know what qualifies
15 the policy-makers, besides their education, to
16 reform the welfare system.

17 Having been on welfare, I know how the
18 system never worked first us as a whole since it
19 began. This new system is far from being the
20 answer to what we need from our policy-makers. I
21 believe understanding the experiences and knowing
22 us as people is what we need -- what is needed in
23 making good policies.

24 Some of the things I heard on last
25 Tuesday's hearing sounded good on paper, if the

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2 recipients was numbers. The human elements was
3 left out of the reconstruction of the welfare
4 reform policies. The policy-makers must realize
5 that they are making decisions for real people
6 with real feelings. We are intelligent and we are
7 aware of the limitations within the welfare
8 reform.

9 The policy-makers should take into
10 account that we welfare recipients have managed to
11 survive on an allowance that barely pays the rent.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. EVANS: We know how to balance a
14 very limited monthly budget. We are looking for
15 jobs where we can put this skill to use. We need
16 adequate education to qualify us for jobs. We
17 welfare recipients are entitled, entitled to the
18 same opportunities that every other voting
19 American citizen has.

20 I have been on and off of welfare
21 throughout the years. My reasons for being on
22 welfare are: my job relocated out of state, and
23 transportation became a very major factor; the
24 need for health and medical coverage for my
25 family; the lack of marketable skills; the need

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2 for reliable and affordable child care.

3 During these years, I never stopped
4 trying to improve myself. My work experience
5 consists of: a supervisor with an advertising
6 agency, an associate with different real estate
7 companies, mortgage companies, loans, loan
8 companies, and as well as insurance companies
9 where I made client referrals to sales
10 representatives. At one time, I sold a variety of
11 home beauty products out of my home.

12 I have attended Temple University for
13 real estate, I have attended Community College of
14 Philadelphia for business management. I wasn't
15 able to finish because of my income.

16 In June of this year, I received a
17 certificate for computer training at JFK Training
18 Center. The skills that I acquired there, they
19 were needed to be upgraded, but the program lost
20 its funding. I have also been on several
21 so-called training programs through the Department
22 of Public Welfare that didn't help.

23 What I found to be the best are the
24 training that I have found on my own, such as the
25 JFK Training Center and Jobs Club at

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2 (unintelligible -- sounds like "Pulp").

3 The jobs bill, an adequate education is
4 what we as welfare recipients and Mothers on the
5 Move need. We want to become self-sufficient and
6 confident in the fact that we are a part of the
7 economic system.

8 Unfortunately, most of the feelings
9 among us are that there's not enough jobs
10 available now or when March of 1999 rolls around,
11 that we have no voice in what affects us directly.

12 Besides being an active member with
13 MOMS, I volunteer at (unintelligible); I'm in a
14 jobs club there where I'm able to upgrade skills
15 and do job searches and obtain work experience. I
16 recommend this type of job-readiness which I am
17 receiving from (unintelligible) be available to
18 all welfare recipients.

19 You know, it would be a great idea if
20 we changed the name of "welfare" to "helpfare." I
21 believe it would stimulate a real desire to design
22 programs that would live up to its name,
23 "helpfare."

24 In closing, I cannot stress enough that
25 we need jobs, we need work experience, we need

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2 adequate training. There are many recipients like
3 me, there are many recipients that have less
4 skills than I, and there are recipients with no
5 skills, no work experience, and very little
6 education. Help us to help ourselves to empower
7 ourselves with adequate education and jobs.

8 I know for a fact how hard it is to
9 find a job. We are very concerned about the March
10 deadline when we will be faced with yet another
11 job. Find a job or be cut off.

12 And on a personal note, if I had a job
13 now, I would be able to save for my daughter's
14 college education and return to college myself to
15 obtain a degree.

16 I thank you for letting my voice be
17 heard, and I pray that my voice did not fall on
18 deaf ears.

19 (Applause.)

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you for a very
21 eloquent statement on what's really needed.

22 Just one word. I think we could get
23 all of that if people decided to vote. Because if
24 you wait for those now in power to change, that
25 won't happen. But if everybody eligible to vote

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2 registered and voted and then voted for candidates
3 that support what you said, we could really bring
4 about change. And I think it's in that direction
5 that we all ought to move.

6 And we thank you very much for your
7 guidance. You set forth an excellent program.

8 Mr. Dodds?

9 MR. DODDS: Councilman Cohen, I'd just
10 like to say -- and I will be brief because I know
11 we're going long -- that the basic theory of the
12 welfare reform was not a well thought out social
13 policy. The reason we're here today with all of
14 these problems is it was basically a law that said
15 everybody get a job, and that's it, and walked
16 away from the problem. Now we're left with that
17 as a reality.

18 And in an economy that I've been
19 involved in that's worked for over 20 years -- I
20 know you go back a few years before that, and
21 we've never had enough jobs in the City of
22 Philadelphia. It's a function of the way the U.S.
23 economy works. We have right now the best economy
24 supposedly is 50 years, with 40,000 unemployed
25 Philadelphians, over 50,000 welfare mothers have

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2 to find work. You know, we don't have enough
3 work.

4 And we'd just like to focus on that
5 end, and there are a lot of problems -- the day
6 care, the transportation and so forth. But the
7 basic lack of jobs is something that's going to
8 make this whole program crash around us.

9 And the Secretary of Welfare thinks
10 there's enough work for everybody in
11 Philadelphia. Now, that to me is fantasy land,
12 and it is something that's never happened. There
13 are some jobs, people do get jobs. I would like
14 to point out that they tend to be short-term jobs,
15 with tremendous turnover.

16 We did an analysis of Welfare
17 Department statistics in the first year of welfare
18 reform. They haven't released this, but looking
19 at their numbers, they found that in the first
20 year, 67,000 welfare recipients got jobs; but 9
21 months, 10 months later, only 27,000 still
22 employed and on the welfare rolls, and only 6600
23 left the welfare rolls due to employment.

24 So what those numbers show us is that
25 after 1 year of welfare, 50 percent -- 49.2

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2 percent of the people who became employed were no
3 longer employed. And these are the kind of jobs
4 that people are going to be getting way too often,
5 short-term jobs.

6 Wisconsin has said that 75 percent of
7 their recipients that have found jobs have lost
8 them. Yes, people get jobs, welfare recipients
9 have been getting jobs every day for years. The
10 problem is, they're not lifetime jobs.

11 And let me point out that welfare
12 reform requires that people can keep their jobs.
13 Once you've ever had 24 months of assistance, if
14 you lose your job, you are not eligible for
15 welfare unless you're working 20 hours a week. So
16 formerly, welfare was a form of unemployment
17 compensation for the working poor. That program
18 has been eliminated.

19 So even if Rose gets a job, or any
20 welfare recipients get a job, they cannot lose
21 that job, or they will have no assistance for
22 their families. So I think that's something that
23 we have to keep in mind, that it's not just
24 getting the job, it's sort of the elimination of
25 the safety net where people lose those jobs --

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2 very often through no fault of their own, by the
3 way. There's problems with children and
4 transportation and various issues. And I would
5 like to point out that entry-level positions are
6 easy to replace, and they're going to be easier to
7 replace as we have more desperate mothers out here
8 looking for work.

9 With that in mind, I'd just like to say
10 that there's a growing movement in this country to
11 say that we ought to be providing public
12 employment for people who are being forced off of
13 welfare, that the State wants everybody to work,
14 the State should make sure that work is available.

15 In the City of Philadelphia, we've made
16 a first step in the Philadelphia Works Program
17 where 3,000 public jobs are being created. We
18 think there should be more, we think there's been
19 a disproportionate amount a money being put into
20 social services, the jobs are too short-term, but
21 it's a start. We're starting to own up to the
22 fact that if we want everybody to work, we have to
23 make sure work's available.

24 In the State, there's over \$300 million
25 that have been saved in this fiscal year and in

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2 the fiscal year before on welfare reform,
3 \$300 million. Not one penny of that has been used
4 to create jobs for people who have to find work.
5 We believe that that money should be used.

6 Senator Hughes has put forward an
7 excellent bill that would create public jobs for
8 18 months, a minimum of \$6 and up people with
9 training, with child care, with health benefits.
10 That's the kind of program that we need.

11 And that program has to be planned, by
12 the way, for it to be effective. I mean, one of
13 the things that Deputy Secretary Heller talked
14 about is work net. All the recipients go out and
15 find themselves slots where they can volunteer.
16 That is going to be a chaotic unplanned program
17 and will not help not people. We think that
18 program will do nothing but take people's time,
19 and it will not help them to become
20 self-sufficient.

21 So need a program that's well planned,
22 that people get a good work experience from, where
23 they get training, and they can move along. That
24 is critical.

25 One last thing. If that program is set

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2 up, it should be set up so that people can get
3 earned income tax credit. The State is using an
4 ideological approach that says that if people are
5 working for their check, it's not work, it's
6 welfare. The difference for that, if you turn it
7 into money for employment, people will bring home
8 \$2300 a year in earned income tax credit; versus
9 if they don't, they'll get \$190 a year.

10 We believe that that money should go to
11 welfare recipients who are working, and that's
12 over \$43 million of federal dollars that come to
13 the State. We believe that's critically
14 important.

15 So I'll stop with that. We have plans
16 that are available, that we think the State should
17 be using. It's hard to get the State to listen to
18 those plans, but we do believe that work has to be
19 available in light of this crazy welfare reform.

20 Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very
22 much.

23 (Applause.)

24 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Rabbi?

25 RABBI ZERBARINI: Great, good

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2 afternoon.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Identify yourself
4 for the record and proceed.

5 RABBI ZERBARINI: I am Rabbi Lina
6 Zerbarini from the Jewish Community Relations
7 Council.

8 First of all, I have the testimony of
9 Reverend Lampen, who was unable to return today;
10 she was here last Tuesday. So I have her
11 testimony to submit for the record.

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: We'll incorporate it
13 into the record.

14 RABBI ZERBARINI: Thank you.

15 The Jewish Community Relations Council
16 of Greater Philadelphia is the collective public
17 policy voice of the organized Jewish community,
18 representing 33 agencies across the Delaware
19 Valley. The JCRC is a founding member of the Jobs
20 Coalition, which is a coalition of community,
21 religious, and labor groups that came together
22 years ago to create legislation that would create
23 public-service jobs across the State for people
24 moving from welfare to work.

25 The faith-based organizations in the

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2 Coalition include the Methodists, the Society of
3 Friends, the Roman-Catholic Archdiocese of
4 Philadelphia, the Episcopal Diocese of
5 Pennsylvania, among others that I have listed for
6 the record.

7 In the 12th century, the great medieval
8 philosopher Maimonides spoke to our contemporary
9 situation when he taught that there are eight
10 levels of "tzedakah," a word that's often
11 translated to mean "charity," but really indicates
12 justice.

13 I quote, the lowest level is to give,
14 but with reluctance and regret. This is the gift
15 of the hand, but not of the heart. The eighth
16 level, and the most meritorious of all is to
17 anticipate charity by preventing poverty, to
18 assist the one in need a help through a grant or a
19 loan or by teaching a trade, or by helping them
20 create a business so that they may earn an honest
21 livelihood and not be forced in the dreadful
22 alternative of holding out a hand for charity.

23 To this the Bible alludes when it says,
24 "And if your brother or sister becomes poor and
25 has a need, then you shall relieve them, even if

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2 they are strangers or sojourners, that they may
3 live with you." This is the highest step and the
4 summit of the golden ladder of justice.

5 We, the religious community of
6 Philadelphia, ask you to help us implement the
7 wisdom and sacred teaching of centuries, and
8 create real work for the families of our state,
9 for our sisters and our brothers.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: I thank all the
13 members of the panel. And if you would leave that
14 statement with us, for incorporation into the
15 record.

16 The next panel will be Rhonda Louis
17 Jones and Paul Greenwald.

18 (Leona Smith comes forward, addresses
19 committee members off-mike.)

20 COUNCILMAN COHEN: What is your name?
21 Did you testify last week?

22 MS. SMITH: I testified before. I'm
23 not here to testify for myself. What I am here to
24 say IS that we are outraged for, number one, we've
25 heard nothing but white people in corporations all

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2 just speaking on behalf of us, and that's a fact.

3 And what we're just saying is that not enough of

4 us are a part of this policy, nor has enough of us

5 been able to express ourselves, and we are the

6 victims. And --

7 (Maddie Humphrey comes forward.)

8 MS. HUMPHREY: We are the experts.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, we want you

10 all -- we want everybody to express themselves.

11 We did everything we could to --

12 MS. HUMPHREY: But everything's gone

13 wrong. The difference is the corporates who are

14 making money while they sit here. And we have to

15 jeopardize what else we could be doing to just

16 keep a harmonious household or a peaceful

17 neighborhood to sit here.

18 And that's because we don't have any

19 public access cable television, we have to use

20 bull horns or we have to scream in City Council

21 because we are absolutely --

22 COUNCILMAN COHEN: All of you are

23 welcome to --

24 MS. HUMPHREY: (Unintelligible). . .

25 For the communication that the corporate America

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2 is putting in the newspapers and on the TVs. We
3 have no opportunity to talk to one another except
4 in one of these circuses, and we are not circus
5 performers, and we don't need to watch the experts
6 in technology and mathematics who. . .

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. HUMPHREY: (Unintelligible). . .
9 until we speak to the issue of our general
10 revenues, which are spent for our general
11 welfare. It has nothing to do with poverty,
12 disease and statistics. It has to do with
13 equities in the body of politics, and our
14 sovereignty is being ignored.

15 And we are not allowed to vote. We do
16 go to vote, but if we are registered independents,
17 we can't vote. If we want to do a write-in
18 candidate, we can't do it, because I live in the
19 9th Division of the 12th Ward, and I am sick and
20 tired of my councilman, my state representatives,
21 my at-large representatives, and everybody who
22 represents me in this city ignoring my letters to
23 the Ethics Committee of this Council.

24 And the fact is, David Cohen, I should
25 ask you to recuse yourself from this issue because

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2 you're the only one who, in 1968, heard me making
3 this same appeal for us to regard the quality of
4 life of people more than we regard the statistics
5 of corporate research.

6 And I am tired of all the federal money
7 from the general revenues of this commonwealth
8 coming to this county to be redistributed to
9 Montgomery County and all the other wealthy places
10 around Philadelphia.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. HUMPHREY: I'm tired of living in a
13 hole in the middle of a donut, when it is I and
14 mothers who are building families and rearing
15 decent children to be decent human beings that are
16 being dragged into the prisons of Pennsylvania
17 while the people in the other 66 counties can have
18 jobs.

19 There are no penitentiaries in
20 Philadelphia, but two-thirds of all the felons in
21 Pennsylvania come from this one county, and I'm
22 not talking race and I'm not talking poverty; I'm
23 talking simple justice. This is the standard of
24 justice that we just heard. And we are on Level
25 1, trying to be just and peaceful under very

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2 trying circumstances of a brute civil war that has
3 lasted far too long.

4 This Council, this Commonwealth and
5 this city, they have conspired too long not
6 knowingly, but deliberately, to take the general
7 welfare revenues and give them to the general
8 private corporate sector, be whatever their name,
9 nonprofit, and they have seen fit to withhold
10 their deliberations from those of us who are in
11 true charity. So we have been brought here.

12 I have been reduced to poverty because
13 I have a master's in business, I have a law
14 degree, I have 50 years of working in this city,
15 and I'm unemployable here.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. HUMPHREY: And the City wants to
18 take my (unintelligible), and the State wants my
19 Social Security because I am 72, and I haven't
20 changed. But they want my Social Security to pay
21 (intelligible). Why? Because Pennsylvania would
22 reimburse public school teachers who make a public
23 salary for their student loans but because I'm a
24 nurse, I've been downsized four times because we
25 were converting the health system into an

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2 insurance industry.

3 There is too much public policy that is
4 well known all over the world that is being
5 betrayed right here in the Cradle of Liberty. And
6 we are mothers held in ransom for our children.

7 And I appreciate that last mother who
8 spoke 'cause I have no children or grandchildren
9 as she is fortunate to have. And if I weren't
10 doing all of this, as people say, If you weren't
11 such a loud mouth, maybe your son would still be
12 alive. Well, he is alive right here. They may
13 have buried his body but (unintelligible) is my
14 witness, that he is still alive.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. HUMPHREY: And I am sick and tired
17 of this charade, and I'm not performing for free
18 anymore. I will perform for truth. And that's
19 why I would suggest that you recuse yourself, Mr.
20 Cohen, because you're the only one who's been here
21 that whole 30 years that I'm talking about.

22 But whether you do or not, the point is
23 I respect you as a human being because you were my
24 District Councilman at that time, and I will say
25 what you said when I asked you to help me

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2 investigate what they were doing with the federal
3 money, using it for research and technology. And
4 you came back after six months, and you said to
5 me, you don't question federal money, you just
6 take it. This is the results of 30 years of
7 spending federal money without questioning how.

8 And we need to thank God for the
9 blessing of peace today. But we need to put
10 another definition of democracy out there in the
11 global rhetoric of the court of public opinion
12 which free corporate America is calling all of the
13 shots. Employed public servants are articulating
14 what that press is all about.

15 But we are here to speak
16 (unintelligible) of having been there, still being
17 there, and unwilling to continue as silent lambs,
18 okay? We are no longer silent lambs, we are
19 mothers in ransom for our children, whether you
20 call them dead or not.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very much.

22 MS. HUMPHREY: They are alive, and they
23 will live as long as God is in charge of this
24 planet.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

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2 MS. HUMPHREY: And when God is in
3 charge of this room.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. SMITH: And Councilman Cohen, I
6 have to go but I'd like to make a formal --

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, do you want to
8 come forward and speak into the mike?

9 MS. SMITH: Yes. I'd like to make a
10 formal request before I leave.

11 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Speak right into the
12 microphone so we can make sure we have it.

13 MS. SMITH: Yes, thank you.

14 The one thing that we -- and we are
15 representing everyone that's in our organization
16 that we think that one person should not have the
17 power in order to sit around the table and control
18 the resources in the City of Philadelphia, who has
19 the opportunity and the power to set up satellites
20 throughout are community. And we are continually
21 left out of the process.

22 Today we came here to say that not
23 another thing is going to be implemented in the
24 City of Philadelphia pertaining to us, pertaining
25 to our communities without us putting a

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2 representative to sit down to that board to give
3 direction, to give guidance, and to have some
4 level of input.

5 I don't know where these people have
6 came from. We've been in existence, I've been
7 working for 40 years with the late Senator Roxanne
8 Jones and Dave Richardson. I've been a trainer
9 for ten years and don't have a dime. I'm in a
10 rat-infested building, brought in \$11 million into
11 the City of Philadelphia from taking over houses
12 to make a point and make a decision. And yet, we
13 don't have any money, and it's a designed plan
14 that we're saying as of this date forward is going
15 to change.

16 We train homeless people, we train that
17 clientele that they're talking about that's below
18 the 5th-grade level. And, yes, because of my
19 political beliefs, and I believe that that's to be
20 a true factor, they don't give us a damn dime in
21 the City of Philadelphia.

22 So where I am today, I've been begging
23 for a building because I think homeless people
24 deserve more than what I'm giving 'em, a
25 rat-infested building. And if they mean for me to

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2 take over the Convention Center to have one, then
3 that's what I'm going to do.

4 (Applause.)

5 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

6 MS. SMITH: We're saying we want our
7 fair share so we can work with the people that's
8 in our communities. Corporate America don't know
9 them, we do. They not even going to come into our
10 communities, let alone make decisions about us.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Leona, could you
12 just answer a question in terms of --

13 MS. SMITH: Yes, ma'am.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Are you saying
15 that the programs that are being designed by the
16 City --

17 MS. SMITH: Yes.

18 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: -- do not include
19 representation from the broader community?

20 MS. SMITH: That's exactly what I'm
21 saying.

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: You're saying that
23 -- were you a part of the planning of --

24 MS. SMITH: This welfare to work, every
25 -- the satellite programs that's being

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2 implemented to work, to deal with the welfare
3 recipients.

4 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Have you applied
5 to be part of -- have you applied for funding from
6 the programming?

7 (Ms. Humphrey addresses committee
8 off-mike.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Would you please
10 let me ask her the question, please.

11 (Ms. Humphrey continues addressing
12 committee off-mike.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: I need to ask her
14 a question.

15 (Ms. Humphrey continues addressing
16 committee off-mike.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: How are we to know
18 what her concern is if we don't know what the
19 problems is?

20 (Ms. Humphrey continues addressing
21 committee off-mike.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Tell me, Leona,
23 what the problems is.

24 MS. SMITH: The problem is, I made
25 numerous of telephone calls around this as an

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2 issue, and the telephone calls are never, ever
3 returned. We're totally disregarded,
4 disrespected, even in this hearing today.

5 And I think you're seeing a sense of
6 outragednous (sic) from me. There's no respect
7 from a state level, there no respect that the head
8 of the Department of Public Welfare should have
9 been here today, she should have been here today.
10 And I think someone from Donna Cooper's office
11 should have been here today to listen to what we,
12 the people, have to say.

13 Yes, I have called. I have called on
14 numerous of occasions, and I have not received a
15 telephone call back. And if you notice, the only
16 time that there was ever any interaction was last
17 Thursday when I approached, and that's what that
18 conversation was about when I was here last
19 Thursday.

20 Why didn't you return my telephone
21 call? I was called a liar. And when you saw me
22 put my finger in Donna Cooper's face, that's why I
23 was saying to her, I don't have to lie about a
24 telephone call to nobody or nothing.

25 It's just not me. It's a whole lot of

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2 us minorities that's feeling the same way that I'm
3 just representing and saying it for them today. I
4 hear this every single day from work as well as
5 home. People calling my agency, calling me,
6 saying, We are left out of the process, don't have
7 any money for our program. Why?

8 I look at other agencies, and I'm not
9 about color 'cause I got friends of all colors,
10 but I'm looking at a racist movement blatantly
11 taking place from a state level of governmental
12 level down in D.C. and now in the City of
13 Philadelphia. And we're saying enough is enough
14 'cause we're tired, we're tired.

15 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you very
16 much.

17 The members on this Council will
18 further investigate that. This committee will be
19 called back, and Councilman Cohen will set the
20 date, and we will ask those individuals to come
21 back and respond to the process and why groups
22 were not included in the process. But prior to
23 that, we will have a conversation with the powers
24 that be about your concern.

25 MS. SMITH: Thank you so much. And,

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2 you know, it's just so saddening that I'm only
3 known as being a radical, you know. And that's
4 the label that everybody want to give me.
5 However, what they don't realize and understand,
6 what they don't realized and understand is that
7 the way the conditions are today, that makes us be
8 what we have to be.

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: We agree.

10 MS. SMITH: I would love to be --
11 somebody needs to come down there and look at the
12 homeless people that want to learn. Every year,
13 Councilwoman, I've invited you all to come to our
14 ceremony and look at what we do.

15 I hear programs bragging about what
16 they do and this and that and the other, but what
17 they don't tell you is that if a person don't have
18 that 8th-grade education, they can't -- they're
19 not eligible for PIC, they're not eligible for
20 anything, nothing.

21 So they looking at the cream of the
22 crop. They don't deal with the hard-core homeless
23 people that we deal with on a daily basis in order
24 for them to be the best to success, in order to
25 become self-sufficiency.

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2 I shouldn't have to want for nothing,
3 for not a dime in this city. I should be well
4 comfortable for what we've made and the difference
5 that we've made in the City of Philadelphia, I
6 shouldn't want for nothing. There are a whole lot
7 of us.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Thank you very
9 much.

10 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We'd like to
12 finish with this panel so that we have a hearing
13 that's scheduled at 1 o'clock. The hearing will
14 begin in ten minutes. Thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

16 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: We're going to
17 recess to another date. The hearing was scheduled
18 for 1 o'clock, so we have to move with the hearing
19 that was scheduled. You can call Councilman
20 Cohen's office or see the gentleman over here.

21 COUNCILMAN COHEN: This hearing, when
22 it recesses, will be recessed until Wednesday,
23 December 9, at 11 o'clock in the morning, here in
24 the same chambers. When this hearing recesses
25 today that, will be the recess day.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you. Would
4 the two gentlemen proceed.

5 MR. PAZ Y MINO: Good afternoon. My
6 name is Julio Paz y Mino. I direct one of the
7 five agencies in the City that provide child care
8 and referral services and child-care subsidy funds
9 for working parents. These services are fully
10 funded by the State, and two of the offices are
11 operated on behalf of the State by the Crime
12 Prevention Association.

13 The five agencies serve different
14 geographic areas of the City. Although we are
15 separate agencies dispersed throughout the City,
16 we operate under the name "Philadelphia Child Care
17 Resources" to make the same citywide services
18 easily accessible to all parents through a single
19 initial point of contact, our toll-free number is
20 888-461-KIDS. Pens with the number are being
21 distributed provide.

22 We provide locally-based basic resource
23 and referral services to any Philadelphia resident
24 free of charge through our toll-free number,
25 888-461-KIDS. Counselors are on hand to speak

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2 other languages, specifically Spanish, several
3 Southeastern-Asian languages, and Eastern-
4 European languages.

5 We also provide child-care subsidy
6 funding to working parents, particularly those
7 formerly on welfare.

8 We handle approximately 1500 calls
9 monthly through the citywide R&R service and
10 administer over \$40 million in subsidy funds,
11 which supports approximately 6,000 families with
12 9,000 children.

13 Philadelphia Child Care Resources has
14 been working closely with the County Board of
15 Assistance of Offices over the past few years, and
16 has increased the intensity of support given to
17 their clients. Through the R&R telephone line, we
18 advise CAO clients regarding their options for
19 child care and next steps to take, depending upon
20 where they are in the system at the time.

21 We also have child-care R&R workers
22 placed at each CAO office to counsel parents and
23 help them with their child-care choices.

24 We anticipate new regulations from DPW
25 which will simplify the procedures for CAO clients

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2 to access child care so that the transitional
3 funding period between CAO offices and the subsidy
4 office is eliminated. We have made R&R counselors
5 available to PIC training sites and to other
6 welfare-to-work programs.

7 I am also the Program Director for the
8 Child Care Resource Developers for Southeastern
9 Pennsylvania, a new program within the State child
10 care subsidy system. The State has provided
11 funding to assure that locally-identified
12 child-care needs of our community are addressed.

13 Over the past eight months, our
14 needs-assessment process involved representatives
15 from many areas of the community. Over 116
16 community representatives participated in the
17 identification of child-care needs. Child care
18 providers and consumers were surveyed.

19 This unique planning forum for
20 child-care providers and the others working on
21 behalf of child care resulted in additional funds
22 to increase child-care capacity, particularly for
23 former welfare clients, and several additional
24 grant application to increase child-care quality.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Well, thank you.

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2 Why don't we include the rest of the statement in
3 the record.

4 MR. PAZ Y MINO: Okay. May I just say
5 that the City has receive 1.55 million, and that
6 we are making applications available now.

7 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you.

8 MR. PAS Y MINO: Thank you.

9 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Sir, please proceed.

10 MR. GREENWALD: Thank you, Councilman
11 Cohen. I would just like to identify myself as
12 Paul Greenwald, the Director of Philadelphia Child
13 Care Resource for West and Southwest Philadelphia,
14 and the Fiscal Director for Child Care Resource
15 Developers of Southeastern Pennsylvania.

16 I have nothing to add to what Mr. Paz y
17 Mino has read for the record or will be put into
18 the record as of the rest of our statement.

19 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Now, by whom are you
20 employed?

21 MR. GREENWALD: We are employed by the
22 Crime Prevention Association of Philadelphia.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Very good. Thank
24 you very much.

25 MR. PAZ Y MINO: May I also say that

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2 the regional plan is being given to you for the
3 record as well for child care.

4 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Yes, please. We
5 would like to have that.

6 Now, is Commissioner Richman here and
7 everyone else representing the City who wishes to
8 be heard?

9 COUNCILWOMAN TASCO: Briefly.

10 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Briefly.

11 (Commissioner Richman comes forward.)

12 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Commissioner, we're
13 delighted you're here.

14 COMMISSIONER RICHMAN: Good afternoon,
15 Councilman Cohen. I'm Estelle Richman, the
16 Commissioner of Health for the Department of
17 Public. I'm here today to give you my perspective
18 on the federal welfare law and its implications
19 for Philadelphia.

20 Philadelphia, like the rest of nation,
21 is in the midst of a rapidly-changing health and
22 welfare system. Many of these changes are
23 necessary to fuel our economic and social
24 well-being. Some of these changes, however, may,
25 in fact, deter from a goal of healthy and

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2 productive citizenry.

3 I've sat before you on several
4 occasions to testify to the growing numbers of
5 uninsured in Philadelphia and the impact that that
6 has had on our health-care system. More and more
7 of our health-center population presenting for
8 care are uninsured, and the ratio of insured to
9 uninsured clients is shifting.

10 In 1994, only 45 percent of health-care
11 center patients were uninsured. That number rose
12 to 58 percent in fiscal year '97 and to 59 percent
13 in December of 1997. The percentage of uninsured
14 is expected to reach 62 percent in fiscal year
15 '99, an escalation in uninsured visits of more
16 than 30 percent between fiscal year '96 and fiscal
17 year '99.

18 In addition, those who come for care
19 are often sicker and require more visits and more
20 intensive care. As a result of the unreimbursed
21 cost of care, those costs that are fully supported
22 by City taxpayer dollars have risen from
23 \$8.8 million in fiscal year '96 to 10 million in
24 fiscal year '97, and in fiscal year '98 with 11.7
25 projected for fiscal year '99.

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2 Moreover, it is taking longer to get an
3 appointment. One measure used by the Department
4 to asses its effectiveness is appointment
5 availability based on its standard of an
6 appointment within three weeks of a request, which
7 meets the three-week standard used by local health
8 maintenance organizations. While appointment
9 availability within 3 weeks had reached 89 percent
10 by fiscal year '96, increased service demand,
11 primarily by adults whose medical-assistance
12 benefits had been cut, lowered that to 6 percent
13 in fiscal year '97, to 74 percent in fiscal year
14 '98.

15 And while the situation has stabilized
16 somewhat in fiscal year '99, the Department of
17 Public Health does not believe that is has seen
18 the end of the ever-growing line for service.

19 The health-care centers have responded
20 well during the early stages of TANF. Despite a
21 decrease in the number of MA recipients citywide,
22 the health-care centers have actually increased
23 market shares since our MA enrollment is the same
24 as it was in October of 1997 when Health Choices
25 was fully implemented.

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2 However, to the extent TANF produces a
3 decrease in the number of MA recipients, we will
4 be faced with continuing expenses since we
5 continue to provide care to the uninsured while we
6 lose the corresponding revenue.

7 The anticipated termination of cash
8 benefits to approximately 26,000 in March 1999,
9 with as many as 35,000 families losing cash
10 benefits by September, is expected to further
11 exacerbate our revenue losses. Although cash
12 benefits have been delinked from Medicaid, it is
13 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania of Pennsylvania's
14 position to require each of these individuals to
15 re-enroll in Medicaid. Based on previous
16 experience, nowhere near 100 percent of the
17 affected individuals will re-enroll.

18 For every 1,000 health-center patients
19 who lose Medicaid coverage, the health centers
20 will see an approximately \$200,000 annual decrease
21 in revenue.

22 Philadelphia hospitals face the same
23 set of circumstances. Hospitals throughout
24 Philadelphia are feeling the same effects as our
25 health centers -- more uninsured, lower

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2 reimbursement rates, and increasing inability to
3 finance care. The Allegheny situation is just one
4 indication of the stress on our hospital system.

5 The elimination of cash benefits to
6 sanction the parents will greatly increase the
7 stress on families that are already struggling to
8 get by. In addition, the elimination of cash to
9 parents who are unwilling -- unable or unwilling
10 to comply with federal welfare law will have
11 several impacts on households, and most notably on
12 their children.

13 As I've stated earlier, those families
14 who do not realize that they need to re-enroll for
15 medical assistance will likely see a decline in
16 health status as they refrain from assessing
17 care. The health centers will continue to be the
18 safety net for these families. But our struggles
19 will increase as more of our population loses its
20 health insurance.

21 Since January of 1996, 19,000 children
22 have come off medical assistance in the City. The
23 retention rate for the rest of the State is far
24 better. Procedures in place for medical-
25 assistance transition are not working. Many do

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2 not understand that medical assistance eligibility
3 can continue even after cash benefits have
4 stopped. This confusion persists for recipients
5 as well as for many providers.

6 This is a landmark year for children's
7 health insurance with the dramatic increase in
8 CHIP funding, but this has not offset the decline
9 in MA enrollment for children here. We're still
10 seeing a net loss of children with health
11 insurance.

12 Some other states instituted automatic
13 medical-assistance enrollment for children when a
14 parent leaves TANF. Others are doing aggressive
15 outreach, using videotapes and ensuring that
16 caseworkers prioritize the issue.

17 What might work for the rest of the
18 state is not working here in Philadelphia. With
19 March 1999 looming, we are concerned that without
20 some aggressive action by the State targeted to
21 the needs of families in Philadelphia, the
22 situation will worsen and even put more children
23 at risk.

24 Substance-abuse and mental-health
25 issues can pose major barriers to successful

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2 employment for many Philadelphians. In order to
3 address these issues, the behavioral health system
4 has been working closely with the Greater
5 Philadelphia Works, Philadelphia's welfare-to-work
6 program, to integrate behavioral health services
7 with welfare-to-work efforts in several ways.

8 First, a full-time director of
9 welfare-to-work initiatives for the behavioral
10 health system has been hired to serve as liaison
11 Greater Philadelphia Works in the behavioral
12 health system. This employee has been involved in
13 the planning and implementation of Greater
14 Philadelphia Works since January 1998.

15 Second, each regional service center in
16 the Greater Philadelphia Works system will employ
17 two behavioral health staff. One will be a
18 paraprofessional peer counselor, who will be a
19 person in recovery.

20 An employment advisor assessor, who
21 will be a substance abuse professional, will do a
22 combined mental-health and substance-abuse
23 assessment on site and make a referral to CBH for
24 treatment authorization and placement.

25 Both of these employees will be

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2 available to other staff for training and
3 consultation on behavioral issues.

4 Third, the State is instituting an
5 alcohol and other drugs demonstration project in
6 several County Assistance Office districts in
7 Philadelphia. The regional center serving these
8 districts will receive additional funding to hire
9 employment and training-service coordinators, who
10 will be substance-abuse professionals assigned to
11 provide case-management services specifically to
12 drug and alcohol clients.

13 In conclusion, I thank you for the
14 opportunity to address you today. March 1999 will
15 bring great change to the City of Philadelphia,
16 some of which we can anticipate, and some of which
17 will be hard to predict.

18 Our only hope is to be ready to act
19 quickly to address the needs of people we serve
20 and to help those affected by the welfare law make
21 a successful transitions from welfare to work
22 while guaranteeing them the health and social
23 supports they're entitled to.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very

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2 much.

3 Who wants to speak next?

4 (Commissioner Mike Nardone comes
5 forward.)

6 MR. NARDONE: Hello Councilman Cohen,
7 Councilwoman Tasco. My name is Mike Nardone. And
8 I'm Deputy Managing Director for Special Needs
9 Housing.

10 I appreciate greatly the opportunity to
11 testify before you today. I commend the committee
12 for holding these hearings and for having the
13 wherewithal to go not one, but two days. And I'm
14 glad to have the opportunity to talk to you today.

15 COUNCILMAN COHEN: The third day will
16 be on Wednesday, December 9th, 11 o'clock a.m.

17 MR. NARDONE: You're heard a lot of the
18 facts and figures over the two days of hearings.
19 I'm not going to try to repeat them, although, as
20 indicated by the letter that Councilman Ortiz will
21 be sending to the State, there still is not total
22 clarity on what those numbers will be.

23 As the individual charged with
24 oversight and coordination of the City's homeless
25 service system, however, I recognize that the

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2 numbers that have been presented represent an
3 extremely daunting fiscal policy and human
4 challenge to the City of Philadelphia.

5 It is extremely difficult for me
6 sitting here today, if not impossible, to project
7 how many of the 61,000 TANF families who will hit
8 the legislative time limits and unable to find
9 work and without any means of support will find
10 themselves destitute and in need of emergency
11 shelter. Much, of course, will depend on how the
12 State chooses to implement this legislation. And,
13 again, there are some questions which have yet to
14 be answered.

15 But just to give you a sense of the
16 possible magnitude, if just 5 percent of those
17 families who -- we've heard the number 25,000, who
18 will hit the March 3rd deadline, if just 5 percent
19 of those families wind up in need of emergency
20 shelter, that would represent approximately 1250
21 families. Presently, we have a little over 500
22 families residing in shelter.

23 So you're talking about potentially, if
24 that were to come to pass, a doubling of the
25 number of people who would seek emergency

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2 shelter.

3 In terms of dollars and cents, that
4 represents more than \$10 million in terms of
5 emergency shelter costs.

6 COUNCILMAN COHEN: My arithmetic tells
7 me it's more than tripling what now exists.

8 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: How much of that
9 money comes from the State?

10 COMMISSIONER NARDONE: We receive
11 approximately \$7 million in State half-dollars,
12 but this is not funding that we presently have in
13 the budget for these additional families.

14 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: So if they came to
15 you from welfare, then the State picks up the cost
16 of them being in shelter, so they don't really
17 save any money.

18 COMMISSIONER NARDONE: Well, we would
19 have to figure out a way to come up with those
20 dollars. You heard earlier today about the TANF
21 surplus. Obviously, we would need to ensure that
22 a portion of that TANF surplus, in addition to
23 some the others services, would have to go to
24 homeless services. But there is no entitlement
25 that the State would pick up those costs.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Could you please
3 summarize? I have a 1 o'clock hearing.

4 MR. NARDONE: Yes. Okay, I'm sorry.

5 COUNCILWOMAN TASC0: Could you leave
6 your testimony here for the record. Because this
7 is not over, we're going to revisit this again.

8 MR. NARDONE: Certainly I'd be pleased
9 to.

10 I guess the thing is that would just
11 close by saying that we are already struggling to
12 meet the demands for services for families in the
13 homeless system, and this potentially has some
14 very serious impacts on the City of Philadelphia
15 in terms of homeless services and really will be a
16 struggle for us to continue to provide the
17 services and to maintain the continuum of services
18 for homeless families that we've been able to
19 develop.

20 And I think with that, I'd be happy to
21 come back at a later date and not take up any more
22 of the committee's time today.

23 COUNCILMAN COHEN: Thank you very much.

24 That concludes the list of witnesses we
25 had known about in advance. Unless there's

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2 somebody who feels they have an immensely
3 important statement to make, the committee will
4 stand in recess until Wednesday, December 9th, at
5 times 11 a.m., here in the same hearing room.

6 The committee stands in recess. That's
7 the Joint Committee of Law & Government and Health
8 & Human Services.

9 Thank you very much.

10 Commissioner Richman, we especially
11 thank you. We knew you were sitting here, but we
12 thought you ought to be educated while we're being
13 educated at the same time. And we appreciate
14 everybody's attendance.

15 (Applause.)

16 (Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.)

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RE: JOINT COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AND LAW & GOVERNMENT

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RESOLUTION NO. 960671

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JOSEPHINE CARDILLO,

Registered Professional Reporter