



West Virginians United for Social and Economic Justice
Our Mission is Justice and Prosperity in Our Community

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**Community Groups & Labor Call for
“Clean” Vote to Raise the Debt Ceiling**

The Economy is too Important & Fragile to let Partisan Politics Kill It!

Charleston, WV – Amidst all the back and forth wrangling over what to cut and what revenues to raise before voting to raise the nation’s debt ceiling, WV United and many member groups will held a press conference today asking ALL our WV Congressional Delegation to protect the economic health of our state and nation by holding a “clean vote” to raise the nation’s debt limit, and then move on to rationally discuss the best methods for trimming spending and raising revenue without the made-up crisis of having the country’s expiring credit line hanging over our heads.

YouTube Link to the video of the press conference is here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejq_4xJRCL

Sam Hickman, CEO of the WV Chapter of National Association of Social Workers had this to say, “Although Social Workers favor a balanced approach involving both spending cuts and revenue enhancements, the time for political posturing is over. We call on members of Congress, especially Rep Shelly Moore Capito as a leader of the party in power in the House, to hold a clean vote immediately on extending the debt ceiling, and then discuss budget issues.”

“This is much ado about a normal bookkeeping update. The debt ceiling was raised 18 times during the Regan years and 7 times during the major deficit spending of the G. W. Bush presidency. Many in Congress who routinely voted for these increases in the past are the ones now holding the country hostage over this is manufactured crisis – one that can do serious damage to the economy,” added Rick Wilson of the AFSC Economic Justice Project.

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“We need cooler heads to work through the debt/revenue debate that is necessary to fix this nation’s economy,” said Gary Zuckett, Exec. Dir. of WV Citizen Action and Chair of WV United for Social and Economic Justice, “This is too important an issue to debate in late-night backroom deals just because the national debt ceiling is approaching. Throwing the economy under the bus to fix the economy doesn’t make sense. We need to take a deep breath, step back from the brink of default and pass a clean debt ceiling adjustment – then move on to deliberate on fixing our budget with open hearings and balanced proposals that put both cuts and revenues on the table.”

"The Republicans in congress should not ask for sacrifice from those who can least afford cut's to social safety net programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid while continuing to protect the elite rich and tax dodging corporation's from paying their fair share of taxes. Raise the debt ceiling and then have the discussion about cuts and revenue," commented Larry Matheney. Sec./Treas. of WV AFL-CIO.

Misty Auvil, Government Affairs Specialist at WV Education Association commented, “Voters did not elect policy makers to put politics ahead of the needs of working families and children. For now let’s put politics aside. Vote now on a clean debt ceiling!”

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