



January 12, 2011

Dear Summit Participant:

Welcome! And thank you for joining us at the 8<sup>th</sup> Working Families Policy Summit.

In the past year, both nationally and in California, there has been a good deal of discussion about *shared sacrifice*.

As millions of families struggle to cope after losing their jobs, their homes and their retirement funds, and as businesses and governments strategize and invest to create new jobs, we must all give a bit more so we can exit this crisis more resilient as individuals, more cohesive as families and more united as communities.

The challenge will be to determine what we mean by *shared* – because when public funds are limited, there is often competition for scarce resources.

As we begin what undoubtedly will be a difficult dialogue, our greatest resource may be our *vision* – and a commitment to explore how this vision can be implemented through policies and programs. This will require leaders, constituencies and advocates to think deeply about what is working and what is not, and to be willing to dismantle the partisan barricades of the past several years.

The Working Families Policy Summit can help launch this deeper dialogue; and importantly, it can help focus discussion on the needs of some constituencies less able to advocate for their own needs – children, the poor, immigrants, and the thousands dependent on our state's safety net.

Our presenters are highly respected advocates, and each has spent considerable time and thought developing the recommendations they present today for your consideration. Together, we have developed a host of briefing materials not only to educate you about policy priorities, but also to share information that can empower you to become an equal partner in the conversations.

The considerable work leading up to the Summit, the day itself, and our planned follow-up activities are made possible through the valued support of our Summit funder, The California Endowment (TCE), an organization that is pioneering a deeper definition of health that goes beyond the medical to examine the physical and social infrastructures of our communities.

We also extend thanks to our Summit Luncheon sponsors: the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, Kaiser Permanente, the Sierra Health Foundation, the New America Foundation, and the Public Health Institute, where CCRWF is based. We deeply appreciate the support of our many partners and co-sponsors – the California Legislative Women's Caucus; the Black, Latino, Asian Pacific Islander and LGBT Legislative Caucuses; the California Commission on the Status of Women; and more than 60 nonprofit organizations. We are honored to be joined by Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones as our luncheon keynote speaker, and we thank Senator Carol Liu and Assembly Member Holly J. Mitchell for their contributions as Legislative Co-Chairs of the Summit.

We just rang out a year of intense political campaigns against a backdrop of escalating rhetoric and rising fear about the fiscal health of our state and nation. This past weekend saw the attempted assassination of a member of Congress and the murder of innocent bystanders.

In this climate, a commitment to reasoned dialogue is more important than ever – and we thank you for participating in a day of in-depth discussion to address the needs and further the dreams of our state's working families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kate Karpilow'.

Kate Karpilow  
Executive Director  
California Center for Research on Women and Families