

## HR 870 – The Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment & Training Act



Representative John Conyers (D-Mich.) has introduced H.R. 870, the “Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment & Training Act,” a comprehensive and innovative federal and local government job creation and training bill that would create millions of new jobs for the nation’s unemployed.

HR 870 would establish a Full Employment Trust Fund, funded by a small financial transactions tax. The Trust Fund would provide federal support for local community-based job creation and training initiatives until full employment is reached in the United States. Two-thirds of the Trust Fund would be directed to direct job creation, while one-third would be used to fund job training and development programs through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Local jobs would be created through a partnership between the Department of Labor, state, and local governments, non-profit community organizations, and small businesses. Under the Act, jobs would be created in the fields of construction, infrastructure repair, green jobs, education, health care, and neighborhood renovation.

In the first year, the Trust Fund would fund projects to: paint and repair schools; clean up abandoned and vacant properties to alleviate blight in distressed and foreclosure-impacted neighborhoods; expand Head Start and day care programs; and expand emergency food programs to reduce hunger and promote family stability. In the second year and beyond, state and local governments would be able to apply for a wider variety of job creation projects, based on community input and local needs.

The program will be open to individuals who are either 1) unemployed for at least 26 weeks; or 2) unemployed for at least 30 days, and low-income. Positions will be for up to 30 hours per week, for at least 12 months. They will pay comparable or prevailing wages, averaging \$12-15 per hour, as well as benefits.

The Act is deficit neutral and fully funded through a modest tax on Wall Street stock and bond transactions. Revenue for the Full Employment Trust will be raised through a tax on Wall Street financial speculation, i.e. on stock and bond transactions. The financial transactions tax will include a 1/4 of 1 percent--0.25% tax on stock transactions; and similar small taxes on futures, options, and swaps transactions. Such a tax could raise \$100 to \$150 billion per year -- enough to fund the direct creation of 2.6 to 3.9 million full-time jobs over two years. (Note also that for every 1 million unemployed people who go back to work, the federal deficit decreases by \$54 billion.)

To get more information, and endorse the bill and join the Put America To Work Campaign, please visit:> <http://putamericatowork.net/>

# PUT AMERICA TO WORK!!

Help Organize A National Campaign to Enact HR 870,  
The Humphrey-Hawkins 21<sup>st</sup> Century Full Employment & Training Act

Rep. John Conyers has proposed new legislation that would create a national jobs program, funded by a financial speculation tax on Wall Street stock, bond and swaps and derivative trading. The bill, HR 870, will be reintroduced in the next few weeks with additional provisions emphasizing the right of all workers to a good job, and calling for the federal government to "create living wage jobs for all at the earliest practicable date."

TAKE ACTION NOW FOR A NATIONAL JOBS PROGRAM & FULL EMPLOYMENT!!

- 1) Endorse HR 870 at [www.PutAmericaToWork.net](http://www.PutAmericaToWork.net)
- 2) Contact House Members and Urge Them to Cosponsor the Bill.  
Urge Senators to Introduce a Companion Bill.
- 3) Pass a Local Resolution in your city or county or state or Labor Council about the unemployment crisis and in support of HR 870 -- visit [www.PutAmericaToWork.net](http://www.PutAmericaToWork.net) to download sample resolutions.
- 4) Hold a "First Friday" or "First Saturday" vigil or demonstration in your community to protest the high unemployment rate, and demand a national jobs program. (The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics releases new unemployment statistics on the First Friday of every month, so you can piggyback on local coverage of the unemployment crisis.) Develop a local coalition/network in support of a national jobs program. Contact Logan Martinez of NJFAC for more information. [Loganmartinez2u@yahoo.com](mailto:Loganmartinez2u@yahoo.com) or (937) 260-2591.
- 5) Organize a Local Community Forum or "Citizens' Hearings about the Unemployment Crisis." Invite unemployed and underemployed workers to speak about their experiences. Invite local & national experts to talk about the human costs of unemployment, and the need for a national jobs program.

More info: [www.PutAmericaToWork.net](http://www.PutAmericaToWork.net)  
Chuck Bell, Coordinator (914) 830-0639, [cbell@igc.org](mailto:cbell@igc.org)

National Jobs For All Coalition, P.O Box 96, Lynbrook, NY 11563  
Phone: 203-856-3877 • Web: [www.njfac.org](http://www.njfac.org) • E-mail: [njfac@njfac.org](mailto:njfac@njfac.org)