

PASS THE MEASURING AMERICAN POVERTY ACT OF 2009

The Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009 is the tool America needs to accurately measure individual and family well-being in the U.S.

Support the Act that can change the lives of millions of children and families across the country.

WHAT THE ACT DOES: The Act would update the current poverty measure to reflect the economic and social realities Americans now face. The traditional poverty measure was created in the 1960s and does not take into consideration differences in geographic location, safety net supports, or income assistance. The new measure is based on the current cost of food, clothing, shelter, and other basic necessities. It also takes into account medical and work expenses as well as income from public assistance programs such as the earned income tax credit, food assistance, and housing vouchers.

WHY IT MATTERS: Poverty is not a red or blue issue, it's a human one. Currently, there are over 12 million people and 7 million families living in poverty in the United States.

WHO SHOULD SIGN-ON TO THE CAMPAIGN: Any organization or individual who believes persistent poverty in the U.S. is an important issue that must be addressed in the upcoming years.

HOW TO SIGN ON: To sign on to the campaign, send us an email at wagner.wocpn@nyu.edu. You can also visit wagner.nyu.edu/wocpn to learn more about the legislation and ways you can support it.

WOMEN OF COLOR POLICY NETWORK, NYU WAGNER

Founded in 2000 by Walter Stafford as part of the Roundtable of Institutions of People of Color, the Women of Color Policy Network, an affiliate of the Research Center for Leadership in Action at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, NYU is the country's only research and policy institute focusing on women of color, their families and communities at a nationally ranked top ten public policy school. **The Network conducts original research and collects critical data on women of color that is used to inform public policy outcomes at the local, state and national levels.**

This is an educational campaign meant to raise awareness across the country about the need to update the federal poverty measure.

