



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2011

Contact: Teresa Candori, Natl. Urban League
(464) 319.0891
Mike Rowe, Ohio Senate
(614) 466.5899
Donna Dabbs, UL of Greater Cleveland
(216) 622.0999

National Urban League, Greater Cleveland Affiliate, Join Ohio State Senators in Support of Forward Ohio Plan

Four point plan could create or save almost 16,000 jobs statewide

Cleveland—State Senators Nina Turner (D-Cleveland) and Eric Kearney (D-Cincinnati) gathered today with Marc H. Morial, National Urban League President and CEO, and Marsha Mockabee, President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, to underscore the need for job creation efforts and highlight the Forward Ohio plan.

Preliminary estimates by the non-partisan Ohio Legislative Service Commission conclude that Forward Ohio could create or save almost 16,000 jobs statewide.

“Creating jobs and fostering the conditions in which our economy can grow should be priority number one,” emphasized Senator Turner. “It is imperative that we do all that is possible to leverage both public and private resources to lay a foundation for prosperity in our state. Forward Ohio does just that.”

Unveiled on November 1, Forward Ohio is a package of targeted, creative and sustainable policies aimed at connecting the jobless with employment opportunities and investing in the state’s economic future.

“Forward Ohio is a collective effort to move Ohio’s economy forward,” explained Senator Kearney. “Each legislator, business, and citizen—regardless of our political affiliation—will play an integral role in the passage of this legislation. Developing new initiatives to help small businesses grow and employ Ohioans will help us deter citizens from moving to more prosperous states.”

Designed as a four point legislative plan, the bill will:

- Help small businesses compete and expand,
- Position Ohio's economy for future growth,
- Create pathways to employment for the long-term unemployed, veterans and youth, and
- Stabilize and revitalize our communities.

"The Urban League of Greater Cleveland is pleased to see the leadership in developing Forward Ohio," said President Mockabee. "The four point plan – helping businesses, growing our economy, providing employment and job training opportunities and forging vibrant communities – aligns perfectly with the mission of the Urban League."

Stopping in Cleveland as part of the Urban League's National Jobs Tour, Morial stressed the need to create jobs in this tough economic climate. Though the Great Recession technically ended in mid-2009, hard times continue as Ohio and the nation struggle with stubbornly high unemployment.

"Throughout this national jobs crisis, the National Urban League has advocated for direct job creation measures targeted to communities with high unemployment," commented President Morial. "The Forward Ohio initiative represents the strong leadership that will lead the nation out of this crisis. I thank senators Turner and Kearney, and Marsha Mockabee, our dynamic President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, for helping to build stronger communities in Ohio."

In the coming months, senators Kearney and Turner will travel the state with supporters of Forward Ohio to build momentum for the plan and ensure that job creation returns to, and remains, front and center in Ohio politics.

A summary of the bill is included with this press release. Please visit www.forwardohio.com to find out how you can support the plan and help move Ohio forward.