



Children's Defense Fund

# PRESS ADVISORY

**For Immediate Release:**  
**July 13, 2005**

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On Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., the Children's Defense Fund – New York (CDF-NY), in conjunction with Council Member Gale A. Brewer, will conduct a Press Conference on the steps of City Hall in support of pending Resolution 1034 (copy below). The Resolution, introduced by Council Members Brewer and Lewis Fidler on June 23, 2005, calls upon the City Council to condemn the proposed federal budget passed by Congress on April 28, 2005 for failing to protect the vital interests of New York's children and their families. As part of the conference, more than 100 young people from the CDF Freedom Schools<sup>SM</sup> summer program will conduct a Harambee\* celebration in front of City Hall.

The Resolution, which arose from CDF-NY's Youth in the Movement "Speak Out" and hearing at City Hall on May 12, 2005, is part of CDF's continuing campaign to inform the public about the devastating impact the proposed federal budget will have on critical services for poor children and their families like Head Start, child care, Medicaid and food stamps — while at the same time granting an additional \$106 million in tax breaks to America's most wealthy.

**What:** Press Conference calling upon the City Council to condemn the proposed federal budget

**Who:** The Children's Defense Fund – New York and Council Member Gale A. Brewer

**When:** Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** The steps of City Hall

*\*Harambee is a Kiswahili word that means "let's pull together" and is a time of informal sharing between adult and children in order to celebrate themselves and each other.*

**Res. No. 1034**

Resolution condemning the federal budget resolution passed by Congress on April 28, 2005 for failing to protect essential interests of families and children and calling on Congress to take actions necessary to ensure the survival of critical programs that preserve the well-being of New York's children and their families.

**By Council Members Brewer, Fidler**

**Whereas**, The United States House of Representatives and Senate passed a budget resolution for federal fiscal year 2006 on April 28, 2005 (the "budget resolution"); and

**Whereas**, The budget resolution includes major reductions in critical domestic programs that will have a seriously negative impact on New York's low-income children and working class families; and

**Whereas**, The budget resolution cuts a total of \$212 billion from discretionary programs over the next five years, including funds for education, health care, housing, environmental protection and other domestic programs; and

**Whereas**, The budget resolution requires \$35 billion in cuts to mandatory programs that provide crucial assistance to vulnerable members of our society; and

**Whereas**, This includes a \$10 billion cut from the Medicaid program, which will cut funding to New York by an estimated \$1.37 billion; and

**Whereas**, The budget resolution further calls for \$3 billion in cuts to agricultural programs, which are likely to include major reductions in funding for the food stamp program that provides essential support to ensure adequate nutrition for low income families; and

**Whereas**, Congress now must engage in negotiations to decide which critical programs for children and families to cut and by how much; and

**Whereas**, The budget resolution also authorizes \$106 billion in unrecoverable tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans; and

**Whereas**, The budget resolution undermines the common good and general welfare of New York's children and families, in that it reduces resources and funding essential for our children's health, education, safety and community stability, as well as the basic framework of longstanding policies that protect the most vulnerable members of our society, and at the same time provides additional tax cuts for high income individuals; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the New York City Council condemns the federal budget resolution passed by Congress on April 28, 2005 for failing to protect essential interests of families and children and calls on Congress to take actions necessary to ensure the survival of critical programs that preserve the well-being of New York's children and their families.

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