



THE CONCORD
COALITION

Youth Action Conference Overview

Description

On June 15th and 16th, The Concord Coalition is hosting a conference in conjunction with the Youth Entitlements Summit to highlight the grassroots efforts and policy perspectives of youth organizations in addressing America's long-term fiscal challenge. The Conference will feature in-depth policy discussions focused on economic and fiscal issues and their effect on the millennial generation, as well as highlighting the best ways for youth-oriented organizations to take action in order to educate and persuade their members and communities on the need to change the direction of current policy.

Proposed Schedule of Events

Monday, June 15th, Focus on Policy, Room B-339 Rayburn House Office Building

8:45–9:15AM Introduction by YES Honorary Co-Chairs Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz and The Honorable James R Jones, Former Congressman and Chairman of the House Budget Committee

Opening remarks by Congressman John C. Spratt (D-SC), Chairman, House Budget Committee

9:30–11:30AM Panel 1 – Generational Issues and the 2008-2009 Recession.

Unprecedented budget deficits to stimulate the economy and save the banks point to a legacy of rising debt service costs. Yet older generations have lost trillions in the ensuing asset meltdown and are more dependent than ever on public programs. How has the slump and market crash affected young and old? What are the likely impacts on entitlement reform?

- Joseph Minarik, Research Director, Committee for Economic Development
- Jagadeesh Gokhale, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute
- Henry Aaron, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institute

11:30AM–1:00PM Networking break and Lunch

Networking break and Lunch Discussion with David Walker, President & CEO, The Peter G. Peterson Foundation and Former Comptroller General of United States

1:00–3:00PM Panel 2 – Generational Issues and Health Reform.

Per capita health spending across the income spectrum is remarkably flat. Yet the conventional wisdom holds that health system reform will result, at least temporarily, in higher per capita spending and higher budget deficits. Meanwhile, some reform proposals contain features like “community rating” that could increase transfers from young to old. Where do the interests of youth lie?

- Phil Longman, Schwartz Senior Fellow, New America Foundation
- Paul Van de Water, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Hon. Bill Thomas, Former Chairman, House Ways Means Committee (R-CA)

3:15–5:15PM Panel 3 – The YES Declaration One Year Later.

Does the challenge of entitlement reform transcend ideological and parochial interests? Is it okay to run up the debt in order that some of this money may benefit youth? Are young Americans well enough informed to participate in arcane policy discussions on health and retirement? What can be done to improve the quality and level of youth participation in the policy reform process?

- Isabel Sawhill, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institute
- Stuart Butler, Vice President, Heritage Foundation
- Andrew Yarrow, Vice President, Public Agenda Foundation

5:15–5:45PM Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI), Ranking Member, House Budget Committee

Tuesday, June 16th, Grassroots Plan of Action, The Phoenix Park Hotel, 520 North Capitol Street

10:00-10:30 AM Introduction

10:30-11:15 AM Workshops 1 - Tech Tools to Manage the Masses: Leveraging Technology
With the broad support needed for movement on national issues, reaching your public can be a logistical nightmare. We'll hear from organizations and experts who have success stories for making non-profit life easier with technology.

- Matt Stempeck, Internet and New Media Director, You Street
- Lauren Hunter, Sales Executive, Henninger Media Services

11:15-12:00 PM Workshops 2 - Movers and Shakers: The People of Grassroots

At the intersection of organizations with diverse politics and issue focuses, are people who care about the long-term sustainability of our country. Guests from each of the organizations attending the conference will spend a few minutes introducing their organizations and describing their focuses and activities.

12:00-1:00PM Lunch

1:00-2:30 PM Workshops 3 - Fiscal to You, Greek to Me: Communicating on National Issues

The most critical challenges we face are often also the most difficult to communicate. From healthcare, to the tax code, to projected fiscal imbalances, we'll hear about experiences of messaging on national issues, and share ideas for making a complex message salient.

- **Moderator:** Honorable Marjorie Margolies, President and Founder, Women's Campaign International
- Luke Repici, President and Executive Director, Association of Young Americans
- Elaine Leibsohn, Vice President, Nation Action Strategies, America's Promise
- Diane Rogers, Chief Economist, The Concord Coalition

2:30-2:45 PM Break

2:45-4:15 PM Workshops 4 - Bake-Sales for The Budget?: Activating Volunteers

It can be hard to plan direct action on national issues, yet the best way to involve the public is to get them invested in a proactive campaign. From distributed parties to reverse phone-banking, get the latest techniques and programs from the teams who mobilize youth on intangible issues.

- Jeff Thiebert, National Grassroots Director, The Concord Coalition
- Maya Enista, CEO, Mobilize.org
- Kurston Cook, National Field Director, The Roosevelt Institution

4:15-4:30 PM Closing

4:30 PM Travel to Hill (Senate Visitor's Center - 210/212)

5:30 PM Dinner

YES panelists and grassroots experts discuss policy findings and grassroots action plan

- D. Paul Monteiro, Associate Director, White House Office of Public Engagement (invited)