Although the nation in general and Atlanta in particular is experiencing relatively high employment, the hard core poor, i.e. the chronically unemployed require immediate and direct assistance. These unskilled men and women who are currently unproductive and therefore impose a heavy drain on welfare and other dependency programs would prefer to be employed and productive if given the necessary training and/or work.

Therefore, we call upon our state representatives and city officials to enact legislation which will:

- A. Establish a Public Employment Program including the following features:
 - 1. Public work and beautification program for limited skilled, unemployed persons in urban communities.
 - 2. New Careers programs in public departments.
 - 3. Establishment of sub professional job categories in the State Merit System.
 - 4. Create a public advisory committee to the Department of Labor.
- B. Establish a <u>Skills Center</u> designed to offer training, evaluation, and placement to the unemployed in the urban centers of the State.
 - 1. This center would accept persons with no prerequisites based on education, training, income, etc.
 - The center would have an advisory committee representing enrollees, business, education, labor and community action programs.
 - 3. Such a center would deal specifically with the unemployment problem of females by offering training, providing day care and developing job placements for them.
- C. Enforce nondiscrimination in all (city) and state contracts let by any department.