



THE URBAN COALITION ACTION COUNCIL

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Executive Director

December 24, 1969

The Honorable Ivan Allen, Jr.
Mayor of the City of Atlanta
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ivan:

Several days ago the Senate voted 53 to 35 to allow foundation funds to be used for voter registration programs, thus overriding the Finance Committee's move to prohibit the use of tax-exempt funds for this purpose. We had asked your help on this important issue, and many of you responded.

Two weeks ago the federal anti-poverty program was threatened by a move in the House of Representatives to channel all federal anti-poverty funds and programs through state governors. This amendment would have had a serious impact on many urban programs. A delegation from our Policy Council called on Secretaries Finch and Shultz, OEO Director Rumsfeld, and several members of Congress to urge continuation of the present anti-poverty program.

In addition, telegrams signed by each Policy Council member attending last week's meeting were sent to President Nixon and each member of Congress. Local coalitions were urged to support the campaign to save OEO. Many local coalition officials contacted their Congressmen immediately.

These efforts capped the very effective work that many policy Council members and their representatives, together with other organizations, had been doing for several weeks. We are very pleased to report that on December 12 the House rejected the amendment which we opposed and voted to extend present OEO programs.

The last two weeks have shown us what can be done when many work together to accomplish a common result. We are grateful to those who took part in this effort.

Sincerely,

John W. Gardner

Chairman

