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**Alexandria Community Services Board Testimony  
City of Alexandria Public Hearing on the FY 2011 Budget  
March 10, 2010**

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**Speaker:** Mary Anne Weber, Chair, Alexandria Community Services Board

I am Mary Anne Weber, Chair of the Alexandria Community Services Board.

I am here today to express the Board's support for the City Manager's Proposed Budget and gratitude for your assistance in advocating on our behalf regarding proposed State budget reductions.

While the Board is slated for City reductions of \$325,000 for FY 2011, this reduction is a more moderate reduction compared to FY 2010 and is similar to those found in other City agencies. The Proposed Budget also includes our plans to address a decrease of \$265,000 in State General Fund revenue, bringing the total FY 2011 reduction to \$591,000.

The Board has already increased productivity standards, eliminated non-essential positions, and reduced capacity in lower-priority and administrative programs. With \$2.15 million in reductions between FY 2008 and FY 2011, any additional reduction requires significant service reductions to Alexandria's most vulnerable residents. Like other social service agencies, we are seeing an increase in demand for services at a time when there is decreased capacity in local non-profits. Waitlists are increasing and there is reduced ability to serve Alexandria residents. Proposed House and Senate budget language would further increase these waitlists and diminish capacity.

The Board wishes to express its appreciation for your assistance in advocating for restoration of proposed cuts in the House and Senate. These cuts may result in the loss of another \$400,000 for the Board and your voice of support has been appreciated.

On a more personal note, as a resident and homeowner in this city for over 13 years, I have come to appreciate Alexandria as a community that cares. I wish the state of Virginia had the same sense of responsibility. I also want you to know I am willing to accept higher taxes if that is what it takes to keep our essential services.