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White House Forum Kicks Off National Conversation on Workplace Flexibility

Today's White House Forum on Workplace Flexibility sent a clear signal that expanding access to workplace flexibility has become a national priority – essential to supporting working families and strengthening our nation's economy.

“Today's forum highlighted the tremendous difference that workplace flexibility can make in the everyday lives of millions of working Americans who are struggling to balance their jobs with caring for their families. But the forum also revealed the positive impact that flexibility can make on business' bottom line – and on our overall economy,” said Katie Corrigan, Co-Director of Workplace Flexibility 2010. “As First Lady Michelle Obama pointed out, the reality of today's economy demands that we find solutions for working families now. We look forward to working with the Obama Administration to help identify those solutions.”

The White House Forum brought together key leaders from business, labor, family and employee organizations, and academia to discuss successful workplace flexibility strategies used by large and small employers from a range of industries.

“The innovative business practices presented today prove that flexibility can work for all employees – regardless of profession or income level. We were delighted that the White House focused specific attention on the fact that flexibility is critical to low-wage workers, for whom predictable work schedules can be the key to achieving economic security for themselves and their families,” said Workplace Flexibility Co-Director Chai Feldblum.

Workplace Flexibility 2010 is committed to working with the White House and Forum participants to develop meaningful next steps to advance workplace flexibility. Specifically, Workplace Flexibility 2010 supports the recommendation presented today by the White House Council of Economic Advisers indicating the need to collect more extensive and accurate data on the economic benefits of workplace flexibility.

In addition, we must develop new ways to provide employers and employees across the country with the best practices and technical assistance they need to implement successful workplace flexibility strategies. We believe the federal government can play a significant role in taking these next steps – and we look forward to the White House's continued leadership on this crucial issue.

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Workplace Flexibility 2010 is a public policy initiative based at Georgetown Law. It is part of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's National Initiative on Workplace Flexibility. For more information, visit www.workplaceflexibility2010.org.