

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2006

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to invite you and your staff to attend a briefing on *Meeting the Needs of Today's Families: The Role of Workplace Flexibility*. Co-hosted by Workplace Flexibility 2010 and the Workforce and Family Program of the New America Foundation, the briefing will be held Monday, May 1 from noon to 1:30pm in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. Box lunches will be provided.

Current research reveals a profound mismatch between the needs and priorities of America's families and the way that work is organized into full-time, full-year arrangements, often with few or no opportunities for time off. This briefing will provide you an opportunity to hear from the experts on how this mismatch is impacting marital well-being, child-rearing, and caregiving responsibilities, including elder care. The briefing will also highlight how workplace flexibility – including flexible work arrangements, short term time off, and part-time work – benefits families and how one company is using flexibility as a key management strategy.

Workplace Flexibility 2010 is an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Initiative based at Georgetown University Law Center. Its mission is to expand the substantive conversation around workplace flexibility and to bring a range of constituencies together to develop consensus-based policy solutions to advance workplace flexibility. New America's Workforce and Family Program engages policy-makers, employers, and workers in hopes of developing and advancing ideas that can improve the lives of workers and strengthen families while enhancing the competitiveness of American businesses.

For this briefing, Workplace Flexibility 2010 and the New America Foundation have convened the following panel of experts who have been studying the impact of today's work life realities on our families:

Barbara Schneider, PhD  
John A. Hannah University Distinguished Professor in the College of Education and Sociology  
Michigan State University  
Principle Investigator of the 500 Families Study and Editor of *Being Together, Working Apart: Dual-Career Families and the Work-Life Balance*

Phyllis Moen, PhD  
Professor & McKnight Presidential Chair in Sociology  
University of Minnesota  
Co-author of *The Career Mystique & Cracks in the American Dream*

Ellen Galinsky  
President and Co-Founder of the Families and Work Institute  
Co-directs *The National Study of the Changing Workforce*

Nina Madoo  
Director of Workplace Strategies  
Workforce Effectiveness Department  
Marriott International

Chai Feldblum (co-Moderator)  
Professor of Law  
Workplace Flexibility 2010  
Georgetown University Law Center

David Gray, JD (co-Moderator)  
Director, Workforce & Family Program  
New America Foundation

We hope a member of your staff will be able to participate. Please call Page Kranbuhl (224-2915) in Senator Alexander's office or Mildred Otero (224-4451) in Senator Clinton's office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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Lamar Alexander



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Hillary Rodham Clinton