



## NEWS ADVISORY

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### *U. S. Rep. Artur Davis to address April 5 event*

# Statewide gathering highlights working families' concerns

Working families from across Alabama will convene in Birmingham next month to speak out on education, health care, housing, wages and other issues that affect their daily lives. Congressman Artur Davis will deliver the keynote address. The town hall meeting is part of the nationwide Equal Voice for America's Families campaign to set a "working families' agenda" for the November general election.

**Organizers expect several hundred participants at the event, scheduled for 11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sat., April 5, at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1500 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. Birmingham.** A preliminary regional gathering in Auburn in February drew 200 people. These and similar meetings across the country will culminate in a series of national town halls in September, when Birmingham will host participants from all the Southern states.

**"We often hear that working families are the backbone of our communities, our state, our nation,** yet public policies too often fail to reflect this basic value," said Kimble Forrister, executive director of Arise Citizens' Policy Project, one of the sponsors of the Equal Voice Alabama campaign. "On April 5 and again on September 6, these Alabamians will have a forum. We'll be working hard to make sure policymakers here at home and across the country are listening."

**Sponsors of the Alabama event** are Arise Citizens' Policy Project, Alabama Coalition Against Hunger, Alabama Council on Human Relations, Alabama Organizing Project, Fair Housing Agency of Alabama, Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama (FOCAL), Federation of Southern Cooperatives, Greater Birmingham Ministries, Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (HICA) and VOICES for Alabama's Children. To find out more about the national Equal Voice campaign and the April 5 Birmingham gathering, visit [www.equalvoice2008.org](http://www.equalvoice2008.org) or e-mail Arise organizer Pres Harris, [pres@alarise.org](mailto:pres@alarise.org).

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**Arise Citizens' Policy Project** is a statewide nonprofit coalition comprising 152 congregations and community groups dedicated to improving the lives of low-income Alabamians.