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**STATEMENT BY SEN. JACK REED, JEC VICE CHAIRMAN,
ON 2001 CENSUS BUREAU POVERTY AND INCOME DATA
Most Americans Worse-Off than in 2000, says Reed**

Washington, D.C. – At a Capitol Hill press conference today, **Senator Jack Reed** (D-RI), Vice Chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, called the 2001 annual poverty and family income data release by the Census Bureau, “very troubling news for American families.”

“After seeing great progress over the last decade of rising family income and lower poverty rates, we have now begun to see the economic fortunes of American families falter. These data provide additional evidence that the state of our economy is fragile, and of the need for the President to focus on the economic security of our country as well as on our national security.

“This Administration is M.I.A. when it comes to economic policy. More tax cuts to benefit the wealthiest in this country will only make matters worse in the future. Until the President begins to address the economic concerns of average Americans, we will continue to see more hardship, more hunger and more homelessness.

“These figures point to the need to extend unemployment insurance for our hard-pressed working families who have been unable to find work during this downturn. While Senate Democrats have proposals for extending unemployment benefits – due to run out at the end of the year – we have yet to see a plan from the Administration or our Republican colleagues in Congress.

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“The President must act with Congress now to prevent the unraveling of the broadly shared prosperity that we have seen over the past decade,” concluded Senator Reed.

Senator Reed was joined by Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) and representatives from the National Urban League, National Council of La Raza, National Campaign for Jobs and Income Support, and National Women's Law Center.

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