For Immediate Release

**All Together Now**

Common Sense for a Fair Economy

By Jared Bernstein

"Jared Bernstein provides a smart look at the American economy, one deeply rooted in American values. All Together Now explains the importance of having an economy that puts people first and ensures a fair shake for all."

— Senator John Edwards

As the new century unfolds, America faces a host of economic and social challenges—jobs lost to "offshoring", an ever growing number of Americans without health insurance coverage, an expanding income gap between the rich and the poor, stagnant wages for the middle class, decaying public schools, and many other challenges. These are all difficult and complex problems, but our government’s strategy for dealing with them has been essentially *NOT* to deal with them at all. Over and over, in subtle and not-so-subtle ways, we’re told that we’re on our own—"Here’s a tax cut and a private account, now go fend for yourself."

As Jared Bernstein of the Washington DC based Economic Policy Institute points out, this approach doesn’t make any sense as a strategy for solving the enormous systemic problems our country faces. Our current national policies are just a means for shifting economic risk from those most able to bear it—the federal government, the nation’s top corporations, and those with extreme wealth—to those least able: individuals and families. The result has been a radical increase in wealth for the top one percent of Americans, and falling living standards and increasing economic insecurity for the rest of us.

In *All Together Now: Common Sense for a Fair Economy*, Bernstein outlines a new strategy, one that applauds individual initiative but recognizes that the problems we face as a nation can be solved only if we take a more collaborative approach. The message is simple: We’re all in this together.

Bernstein draws on recent and historic events to explore how the proponents of what he dubs the YOYO (you’re-on-your-own) approach have sold the idea of extreme individualism, exposing the fallacies and ulterior motives in their arguments as well as the disastrous consequences of their policies. More importantly, he proposes practical initiatives in specific areas like economic globalization, health care, and employment that could improve the lives of millions of Americans without increasing overall national spending. These proposals are bundled together under a more communal political philosophy that the author dubs WITT (we’re-in-this-together).

*All Together Now* delivers an optimistic message that the economic challenges we face are not insoluble if we wield the tools of government to meet them in such a way as to build a more just and equitable society.
"What does our national debate about economics most need? It needs ideas. It needs strong voices for justice who understand economics. And it needs economists with a passion for social decency. Jared Bernstein is a passionate economist who provides hard data to describe the world as it is, and ideas to make the world more just. All Together Now should be read and debated by all who know that the status quo is failing us and seek a daring and bracing examination of the reasons for our discontent."
—E. J. Dionne, syndicated columnist, author of Why Americans Hate Politics and Stand Up Fight Back, professor at Georgetown University

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"Jared Bernstein is to most economic writers what Red Bull is to decaf latte. In All Together Now he makes such a rousing case for mutual responsibility and shared risk that you'll leap out of your chair and into action. Everyone in the sub-billionaire class needs to read this book and send a gift copy to his or her elected officials."
—Barbara Ehrenreich, author of Nickel and Dimed and Bait and Switch

"This vitally important and readable book couldn't have arrived at a better time. Jared Bernstein examines the ever-increasing gap between our so-called 'booming' economy and the waning economic security of the very people creating that growth. With common sense and common decency, Bernstein shows where we've gone off course and how to find our way back."
—Robert B. Reich, Professor of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley, and former U.S. Secretary of Labor

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Jared Bernstein is senior fellow and director of the Living Standards Program at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, DC. Between 1995 and 1996, he held the post of deputy chief economist at the U.S. Department of Labor. For the past few years, Bernstein has been among the top 10 American economists quoted in the US and abroad in print media, and he makes frequent appearances on radio and television as well. Bernstein writes a regular column for the American Prospect Online, and his op-eds have appeared in many national and regional papers, including The New York Times and The Washington Post. He was quoted in The New York Times twenty-one times in 2005 alone (many of these in front page articles). He has also been a frequent guest on NPR, including numerous appearances on The Diane Rehm Show and an interview on Fresh Air with Terry Gross. Bernstein is the coauthor of seven editions of The State of Working America. He holds a Ph.D. in Social Welfare from Columbia University and lives in Washington, DC.

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By Jared Bernstein
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