



PENNSYLVANIA

Budget and Policy Center

412 N. 3rd St, Harrisburg, PA 17101 • www.pennbpc.org • 717-255-7156

Monday, June 19, 2017

To the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation:

President Trump's budget features deep cuts in assistance that helps struggling families afford the basics – food on the table, a roof over their heads, and access to health care – as well as stunning cuts in a range of basic public services and investments in our nation, such as job training, K-12 education, access to college, scientific research, and economic development. At the same time, the President has called for massive tax cuts that will overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest households and corporations.

There are troubling signs that some in Congress want to follow the President's lead and put forward a budget plan that also calls for cuts in food assistance, health care, and other supports for struggling families; cuts in investments in public services and our productivity and economy; and tax cuts that will benefit high income Americans and create a big hole in the nation's finances. Such a budget plan would harm Pennsylvania's families, exacerbate our state budget deficit, and undermine our ideals.

Congress should reject these upside-down budget priorities, and put the needs of all Pennsylvania families at the top of the agenda. We call upon Pennsylvania's representatives and senators to:

- **Oppose any budget that requires any cuts in key assistance to struggling families.** This includes rejecting any budget that would authorize a fast-track, reconciliation process to force cuts in programs such as Medicaid, SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), Supplemental Security Income for those with disabilities and seniors, and TANF.
- **Oppose any budget that paves the way for tax cuts that will lose revenue, including tax cuts that will largely benefit the wealthy and corporations.** This includes opposing any budget that would authorize a fast-track process for revenue losing tax cuts offset by reductions in essential services. Cutting food assistance or health care to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy is not only irresponsible but unjust.
- **Oppose any budget that cuts investments in non-defense discretionary programs and work toward a responsible budget deal that will reduce or eliminate the harmful sequestration cuts that otherwise will take full effect in 2018.** Non-defense discretionary programs support key services in Pennsylvania – from education to job training to economic development to important research conducted in our universities—that make a huge contribution to shared prosperity in our state. Congress must, as it has done in the past, come together on a bipartisan basis to ameliorate the harmful sequestration cuts before they go into effect in 2018.

Pennsylvania communities thrive when all families can put food on their table; when workers, parents, children, seniors, and people with disabilities get the health care they need; when schools are not shortchanged; when workers can get the training they need to succeed in today's economy; and when we invest in all of our neighborhoods. We urge our Members of Congress to craft a budget that upholds

the Pennsylvania idea of a commonwealth, in which we all do better by working together to address our common goals.

Sincerely,

500 Women Scientists

Act Against Hunger

Ardmore Housing for the Elderly

Bright Hope Community

Bucks County Marching Forward

Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition

Calvary Baptist Church of Norristown

Catholic Social Services

Center for Coalfield Justice

Center for Hunger-Free Communities

Central Pennsylvania Action Agenda

Concerned Constituent Action Group

Consumer Health Coalition

Daily Bread Community Food Pantry

Delaware Valley Democratic Club

Education Voters of Pennsylvania

Family Services of Montgomery County

Food for Families

The Food Trust

For Pennsylvania's Future Action Fund

Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger

Haws Avenue Food Pantry

Haws Avenue Soup Kitchen

Indivisible Berks
Indivisible Bucks County
Indivisible Center City-DA
Indivisible Mid Montco
Just Harvest
Keystone Opportunity Center
Keystone Progress
Keystone Research Center
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania
Manna on Main Street
Meals of Hope Ministry
Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania
Montgomery County Community Action Development Commission
Mt. Lebanon Rise Up
The Open Link
PAR (Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability)
PathWays PA
The PEAK Center
Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals
Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Head Start Association
Pennsylvania State Education Association
Pennsylvania Together
Philabundance

Philadelphia Neighborhood Networks

Philadelphia Unemployment Project

Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers

Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities

PRO-ACT Public Policy Committee

Project HOME

Resources for Human Development

The Salvation Army Norristown Corp.

SEIU Local 668

The Share Food Program, Inc.

Shepherd's Shelf Emergency Food Cupboard

The Social Justice Group, Springfield Township & Chestnut Hill

TriCounty Active Adult Center

Tuesdays with Toomey

Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN)

Westmoreland County Food Bank, Inc.

Willow Grove Food Pantry

Women's March Pennsylvania