

SAVE for All

Strengthening America's Values and Economy for All

January 25, 2017

Dear President Trump/Dear Senator/Representative:

Millions of Americans are fearful for their future. Some are making ends meet but believe their economic prospects are uncertain; others struggle to lift their families out of poverty. We join them in feeling the injustice of unshared prosperity, made worse by tax breaks favoring corporations and the wealthy and threats to key supports like health insurance that workers and families rely on. The undersigned [number] organizations, representing millions of people of faith, workers, service providers, and human needs advocates nationwide, know that America's real greatness comes from its promise to extend opportunity and economic security to all. We call upon you to make investments of proven effectiveness in order to fulfill this promise, and to reject policies and language that demean and discriminate against race, gender, immigrant status, disability or religion.

We come together in support of four principles for ***Strengthening America's Values and Economy (SAVE) for All***. Federal priorities must (1) protect and assist low-income and vulnerable people; (2) invest in broadly shared economic growth and jobs; (3) increase revenues from fair sources; and (4) seek savings from reducing waste in the Pentagon and elsewhere.

Expanding opportunities for low-income people and protecting them from cuts is essential; keeping millions of people in depressed conditions stalls economic growth and increases inequality. Specifically, we call upon you to reject cuts or structural constraints in basic safety net programs such as Medicaid, SNAP/food stamps, Social Security, SSI, and Medicare. We urge you to ensure that the lowest-income workers are not taxed deeper into poverty. Congress should increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers not raising children. In addition, the Child Tax Credit (CTC) should provide more assistance to children in the poorest working families, in part by ensuring that families qualify for the CTC with their first dollar of earnings. We stand with immigrants who are part of our communities. They need a path to opportunity, not mass deportations that tear our families apart and sow fear in our communities. Young people qualifying under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program must not lose their legal status, and be forced to give up their jobs, drivers' licenses and health insurance. And we stand with workers who deserve a long-overdue increase in the federal minimum wage and expanded overtime and paid leave protections.

We also call upon you to make the economy work for all by investing in our infrastructure and our people. We must invest in the work of rebuilding public housing and schools, roads, water systems, and public transit that protect health and safety and meet the needs of a modern economy. Further, we should give priority to low-income communities most in need, including communities of color, and hire from those communities.

Decades of national economic data tell us that tax cuts at the top **do not** unleash economic growth and jobs, and **do** lead to massive revenue loss. On the other hand, revenue increases from corporations and wealthy individuals, who have already benefited most from our economy, combined with investments in infrastructure, education, child care, work supports, housing, health care and nutrition, have created jobs and boosted income in the past, and can do so again.

The choices before you could not be more consequential. We strongly urge you to choose shared prosperity and fairness and to reject cuts that leave millions of Americans behind. We stand ready to support actions consistent with the SAVE for All principles and to oppose proposals that worsen inequality and harm low-income people.

Sincerely yours,

Pennsylvania

Action Wellness

Allentown Housing Authority

Berks Community Action Program

Bhutanese Community Association

Bryn Mawr Peace Coalition

Bucks County Housing Development Corporation

Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition

Chester County Food Bank

Chester County Fund for Women and Girls

Chester County OIC

Coalition for Low Income Pennsylvanians

Community Action Association of Pennsylvania

Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley

Community Learning Center

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

Consumer Health Coalition

Dignity Housing

Essential Energy

FCC Turtle Creek

Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger

Healing Wounds Family Support Group

Hunger-Free Pennsylvania

Indiana County Community Action Program, Inc.

JPIC Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

Just Harvest

Justice and Advocacy Committee of the Lehigh Conference of Churches

Keystone Progress

Lawrence County Housing Authority

Making Work Pay PA Coalition

MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance)
Medical Mission Sisters
Montgomery County Community Action Development Commission
National Association of Social Workers - Pennsylvania Chapter
Nazareth Housing Services
Ni-Ta-Nee National Organization for Women (Centre County)
PA Association of Housing & Redevelopment Agencies
PCSI
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Pennsylvania Federation BMWED-IBT
Pennsylvania National Organization for Women
Philabundance
Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations
Philadelphia Neighborhood Networks
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council
Pittsburgh United
Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania
Project HOME
Sisters of IHM
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Social Concerns Office, Sisters of Divine Providence
Union-Snyder Community Action Agency
Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN)
United Way of Chester County
West Chester Food Cupboard
Wings for Success
Youth Service, Inc.
YWCA Carlisle
YWCA Tri-County Area