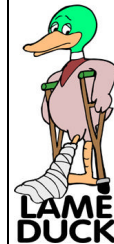


Speak out against the threat of more human needs cuts before Congress returns in November.

Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper - hold your members of Congress accountable to prevent dangerous cuts to health, education, and other services.

Why Now? After the election, Congress will come back for a lame duck session. They may either combine unfinished appropriations bills into one big omnibus bill for passage in November or December or pass another temporary bill to delay action until after the new Congress convenes in January. To prevent further billions in cuts, we need to shine a light on threats to human needs programs as often as possible – before the election and afterwards.



Tips: There's a sample below, but it's just a general guide. You should modify the text to include specifics important to you and your community. This example is 200 words – you should try not to exceed 250 words (some papers require less, and may cut your text). When you write a letter, send a copy to your representative and senators (you can email copies to them by pasting the text of your letter into CHN's Take Action site:

http://www.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizationsORG/chn/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=5483 . If your letter is published, please let us know – contact Deborah Weinstein at dweinstein@chn.org.

THANKS!

To the Editor:

With all the scandals swirling around Congress, one serious failing has not received enough attention. Congress left for its pre-election recess without fulfilling its most basic responsibility – to enact spending bills that invest our tax dollars wisely. Instead, they passed a short-term measure that shrinks most domestic programs and tosses decisions about the rest of the year to a post-election “lame duck” session.

The failure to protect funding for education, health care, job training, housing and energy assistance, nutrition aid, Head Start and many other services hurts all of us. The federal government ought to be investing in our children – making sure they grow up healthy, safe, and ready to learn. Low-income people, young and old, need relief from high energy and housing costs. Workers and students need training for decent jobs. Instead, in recent years Congress has cut billions from domestic programs while at the same time continuing tax cuts that help only the wealthiest few.

When Congress comes back, members will confront proposals to cut still more. Every member of Congress and every candidate, including (candidates and member in your district), should commit to support enough funding to reverse recent cutbacks and reject proposals to make things even worse.

< This would be a good place to replace the general list of threatened services with specifics about your state or community. Look here for state reports about cuts affecting **workers**, (<http://www.afscme.org/actnow/workforce.html>); **children**, (<http://www.afscme.org/actnow/children.html>); and **students**, (<http://www.afscme.org/actnow/education.html>)

< If you're writing as a representative of a tax-exempt organization, it would be safest not to mention candidates' names.