

Be part of the Ryan Budget Truth Squad – How to get your message out about how services valuable to you and your community would be harmed.

Parent, faith leader, nonprofit service provider, student, physician, local official, teacher, business person... your voice is needed. Here are a few ways to be heard:



Make a short video: You can use a smartphone; nothing fancier required. It should be 2-3 minutes. Talk about a program you/your family have benefited from, or that your clients or people in your congregation or community have benefited from. Talk about how your life (or other's lives) changed because of it. And say something about how others need the program too, and how the harsh cuts in the Ryan budget would hurt. This should be your story. If you want to work some [facts/statistics](#) in, great, but mostly this should be about what's important to you. We know the idea of a video can make you nervous, but it's an important way to get your message out. Contact CHN's Outreach and Field Manager Rev. Kelly Wilkins (kwilkins@chn.org)– she'll help you through it!

Write your story: Brief is best – 300 words or less, if you can. Follow the same outline as suggested for the video. You can also adapt it for use in a letter to the editor or op-ed. CHN's Kelly Wilkins can help you with this: kwilkins@chn.org. For writing tips – really a wonderful encouragement to get out your story – here is a [piece](#) by journalist and author Kenan Heise. And because of Kenan's generosity, we will send a free copy of his book, *The Book of the Poor*, to the first 10 Ryan budget stories we receive.

How your story can be used: it can be posted on [Our American Story](#), a Storyteller Action Network with videos and written narratives, a project of the organizations [Half in Ten](#) and the [Coalition on Human Needs](#). Here's a [form](#) for submitting a story. It can also be posted on CHN's upcoming new blog. Or your own blog, or an organization's you know about. Working with you, we will share the story with your Senators and Rep and with reporters.

CHN hopes to develop a variety of additional opportunities to get your story out – all of the above, plus social media sharing and briefings, here in Washington and around the country. **So your efforts will be used.** Without you, we're limited to spouting a lot of numbers that tell part of the truth, but miss the incredibly important human reality.