



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW · Suite 312 · Washington, DC 20036 · 202.223.2532 · Fax 202.223.2538 · www.chn.org

March 25, 2015

Subject: Congressional Budget Resolutions

Dear Representative:

The Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) is made up of national organizations representing human service providers, faith-based groups, policy experts, and civil rights, labor, and other advocates on behalf of low-income and vulnerable people. We have joined with over 1,330 organizations nationwide in signing the SAVE for All budget letter you were sent on March 24. The four principles described in that letter – that budgets should protect low-income people; invest in broadly shared economic growth; increase revenues from fair sources; and seek savings from waste in the Pentagon and elsewhere – are the standards by which we assess the budget resolution alternatives you will be voting on today. Based on these principles, we respectfully urge the following votes today:

Vote Yes: Congressional Progressive Caucus Substitute: *The People's Budget: A Raise for America.*

CHN has [endorsed](#) this proposed budget resolution and urges you to vote **in favor** of it. It protects low-income people by improving basic programs such as SNAP, child nutrition, unemployment insurance, low-income tax credits, Social Security, the Affordable Care Act, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and Medicaid. It invests responsibly in education, child care, infrastructure, clean energy, housing, and health care, in ways that will create millions of jobs with good wages and benefits. The CPC budget pays for these investments responsibly, closing tax loopholes that allow corporations to shelter trillions of dollars in income in overseas tax shelters and high-income individuals to pay less than their fair share. The budget also reduces and modernizes Pentagon spending without compromising our security. It increases economic growth by calling for comprehensive immigration reform.

Vote Yes: The 2016 House Democratic Budget: *Economic Opportunity for Americans Working Hard to Get Ahead.*

CHN endorses this budget substitute. It is also consistent with the SAVE for All principles, ending domestic sequestration cuts, protecting and expanding programs serving low-income people, establishing a national goal to cut poverty in half in ten years, shoring up Social Security Disability Insurance, the Affordable Care Act, low-income tax credits, SNAP, the Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicaid, and other forms of basic assistance. It invests in infrastructure repair, research, education from pre-k through college, and housing. It raises revenues, in part by eliminating tax breaks for corporations hiding income in overseas tax havens. This budget reduces the Overseas Contingency Operations funding to \$58 billion, one means of setting some limits on Pentagon spending. We urge you to vote in favor of the House Democratic Budget.

Vote Yes: The Congressional Black Caucus Alternative Budget, FY 2016. Similarly, The Congressional Black Caucus budget protects basic safety net programs, strengthening such programs as SNAP, Social

Security, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act. The budget invests in reducing health care disparities, increasing access to education, and reducing incarceration, to increase opportunities and remove barriers for people of color and low-income people. This budget also ends sequestration. It calls for at least 10 percent of federal funding in certain accounts be directed to areas with a poverty rate of 20 percent for the last 30 years. Its revenue increases from fair sources allow for investments that will create shared prosperity. We urge your yes vote.

Vote No: Substitutes for the House Budget Committee-Passed Budget Resolution: *A Balanced Budget for a Stronger America*. Both substitutes, offered by House Budget Committee Chairman Price, run counter to the SAVE for All principles. The budget resolution as approved by the House Budget Committee would drastically reduce spending for programs serving low-income and vulnerable people, including SNAP and Medicaid, and recommending constraints on future funding for those programs that would make them unable to respond to economic downturns. These plans eliminate the Affordable Care Act. Over the ten-year period, domestic discretionary spending is cut by \$759 billion, while defense spending is increased. The substitutes increase Pentagon spending even more than the initial proposal. The total reductions add up to \$5.5 trillion over ten years, which would result in increased poverty and loss of health coverage for millions of people. These substitutes assume large tax cuts benefiting upper income people and corporations, and are silent as to the replacement revenues. In contrast, they assume that improvements to low-income tax credits for working families are allowed to expire. We urge you to vote no on both these substitutes.

Vote No: Republican Study Committee: *Blueprint for a Balanced Budget*. This alternative also is the opposite of what the SAVE for All principles call for. It cuts spending even more drastically than the Budget Committee plans, by \$7.1 trillion over ten years. It cuts Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other health programs, all more deeply than the Price budget. In addition it also eliminates the Affordable Care Act. It cuts domestic discretionary programs by \$1.3 trillion, and increases defense by \$435 billion over ten years. It cuts tax rates and reduces taxes for individuals and corporations in ways that overwhelmingly favor the rich. This extreme measure would increase poverty and inequality and slow economic growth through its dramatic reductions in investments in education, infrastructure, etc. We urge you to vote no.

Thank you for your attention on these important matters. Please contact me if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Deborah Weinstein
Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs