



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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CHN: TRUMP'S BUDGET WOULD HARM WORKERS, CONSUMERS, WOMEN AND FAMILIES. CONGRESS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

Today in Washington, D.C., the [Clean Budget Coalition](#) hosted a telephone press conference featuring several members of Congress and coalition leaders. Speakers called for a clean FY 2017 budget – with no corporate-friendly or ideological riders – that funds and protects thriving families and communities.

Speakers included U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.); Robert Weissman, president of Public Citizen; Elissa McBride, secretary treasurer of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Dana Singiser, vice president of public policy and government affairs for Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Tiernan Sittenfeld, senior vice president of government affairs for the League of Conservation Voters; Winnie Stachelberg, executive vice president for external affairs for Center for American Progress; and Deborah Weinstein, executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs.

Below is Deborah Weinstein's statement:

"Between 2010 and 2017, domestic and international appropriations will have dropped 17.5 percent, if Congress stays at the capped level it approved two years ago. That's a loss of 110 billion dollars, taking inflation into account. Because funding is not keeping up with today's needs, we are serving fewer people, and serving them less well. 373,000 fewer children are receiving low-cost child care than in 2006, a 16 year low – we are only serving 15 percent of the eligible children. There are millions of 16-24 year olds not in school and not in a job. But since 2010, the biggest youth training program has been cut by more than 14 percent; the successful Youthbuild program has been cut by 25 percent. Even though a majority of poor households are paying more than half their income on rent, if rental housing voucher funding remains frozen, 100,000 fewer families will get rental vouchers.

"The Trump proposal to cut domestic and international programs even more deeply, halfway through the fiscal year, is grossly irresponsible and would make matters far worse. We are hopeful that Congress will reject these proposals, which target low-income and vulnerable people and communities – from seniors needing employment to migrant farmworkers needing training to the poor struggling to heat or cool their homes. But Congress needs to know that simply rejecting the extreme and wrong-headed Trump cuts is not enough. It is necessary to reject shifting money needed for education, public health,

child care, job training, heat for the poor, environmental protection, and medical research, in order to add billions to the Pentagon. But it is not sufficient. We need to increase funding, so we can invest in our future and protect people today. The only way to make sure that low-income people can share in and benefit from economic growth is to invest in education and training, infrastructure and health jobs, nutrition, health, and child development, and increasing the supply of affordable housing.

“We will hold Congress accountable for its choices. Our security depends on a healthy, well-educated population that is protected from being poisoned by its water or walls and from epidemics and preventable environmental disasters. Our prosperity depends on a healthy, well-educated majority, not on still more tax breaks for the richest people and corporations, and certainly not by slashing basic assistance like Medicaid or SNAP. Millions of people are watching what Congress chooses.”

The Coalition on Human Needs is made up of more than 100 national organizations including faith groups, service providers, policy experts, labor, civil rights and other advocates concerned with meeting the needs of low-income and vulnerable people.