



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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CHN ON THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET: 'A ROADMAP TO THE PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY AND INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE'

Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs, issued the following statement Wednesday endorsing the Congressional Progressive Caucus' People's Budget:

"America needs the Congressional Progressive Caucus' People's Budget. We need it because it is a roadmap showing the way to a nation that fulfills its promise of opportunity for all and investment in our future. It shows that real progress is possible. We can rebuild our roads, bridges and communities. We can help our young people to succeed in school and go to college without having to start their adult lives under a mountain of debt. We can create jobs and provide the training so that low-income people can move up, and that middle-income workers can be more secure. We can protect people when a bad economy or health problems make work unsteady or impossible. We can support families by investing in child care and affordable housing. We can dramatically reduce poverty and hunger. We can improve our health care system, not gut it.

"And we can do all these things responsibly, by requiring the richest among us, corporations and individuals, to stop hiding their income overseas and in tax shelters and to pay their fair share. That is the roadmap provided by the People's Budget: investing in jobs, helping Americans to work, ensuring basic living standards, and providing our children with the start they need for a good and productive life.

"What a contrast this is to the Trump agenda! For Trump and all the little Trump-ettes in Congress, the driving impetus appears to be tax cuts for the rich and for corporations, with a side order of Pentagon increases. The health care repeal bill is really just an excuse for hundreds of billions of tax cuts for high-income people. The President's infrastructure plan is really a vehicle for large tax breaks to subsidize private sector building of toll roads. The Trump budget slashes trillions of dollars from Medicaid, SNAP/food stamps, and assistance for people with disabilities – and virtually every other domestic need – in order to pay for trillions of dollars in tax cuts, yet again for the rich and profitable corporations, as well as for the increased Pentagon spending and the border wall.

"If the majority party can put together a budget resolution, it will look a lot like the Trump budget. So it will be a real privilege and opportunity for members of Congress to vote instead for the People's Budget, and we at the Coalition on Human Needs will do our best to encourage House members to do so. They

can support a serious investment in jobs, affordable quality child care, education from pre-k to college, treatment for the destructive opioid abuse epidemic, and secure living standards for our retirees. They can commit our nation to the goal of cutting poverty in half. That's what the People's Budget does. Or they can tear apart our health care, reverse the progress we've made in cleaning up our environment, deny help to people with disabilities, undermine public education, and take away home heating assistance, housing vouchers, afterschool care and legal services from people in need. That's what a Trump-ette budget will do. It should not be a hard choice.

"Thanks to the Congressional Progressive Caucus for showing us there is a good choice, and giving Representatives the chance to vote for it."

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.