



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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July 24, 2017

The Honorable Mark Pocan and Raul Grijalva
Co-Chairs, Congressional Progressive Caucus
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Pocan and Grijalva:

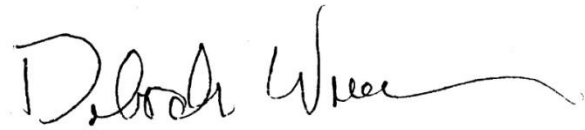
I am writing on behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs to express our strong support for **A Progressive Path Forward: The People's Budget** for FY 2019. The Coalition on Human Needs is made up of more than 100 national organizations, including faith groups, human service providers, policy experts, civil rights, consumer, and labor organizations, representing millions of people nationwide and united in understanding that our nation's progress depends on ensuring that low-income and vulnerable people have the opportunity to share in and contribute to our prosperity.

The People's Budget is a visionary document, but above all it is a practical and responsible roadmap towards sustainable economic progress that will improve the lives of the vast majority of Americans. The budgets advanced by President Trump and his allies in Congress dramatically increase incomes for the rich and corporations, while reducing assistance and opportunity for most of us. In profound contrast, the People's Budget makes major investments in rebuilding and improving the infrastructure that underpins economic growth and protects and expands health care, affordable housing, retirement and other income sources, and routes out of poverty. The investments made possible in A Progressive Path Forward will create millions of jobs with good pay and benefits.

The People's Budget is responsible in three essential ways: (1) by maintaining and improving transportation, schools, water, energy, communications, and health care systems, it ensures that we pass on a growing economy to our children and grandchildren, and do not leave them the cost of undoing years of neglect; (2) by closing corporate and individual tax loopholes that have benefited corporations, Wall Street, and the wealthiest among us and by reducing wasteful Pentagon expenditures; and (3) by unleashing the economic growth projected by comprehensive and just immigration reform, The People's Budget pays for its investments while reducing the deficit. By 2028, The People's Budget would reduce the deficit as a share of the economy well below the Trump budget's deficit level, despite the Trump budget's devastating health care and other human needs program cuts.

The People's Budget shows that it is possible to reverse the stagnation and decline of family incomes and to provide the education, health care, affordable housing, and job opportunities we all need. It is possible to protect public health and to address the needs of retirees and families needing child care. It is not only possible, but essential, to reverse the inhumane and cruelly wasteful anti-immigrant policies being harshly carried out by the Trump Administration. We can do all this if we follow the Progressive Path Forward outlined in The People's Budget.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Weinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deborah Weinstein
Executive Director