



# COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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January 23, 2019

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs (CHN), I strongly urge you to vote “No” on advancing the “End the Shutdown and Secure the Border Act,” and to vote “Yes” to take up and enact H.R. 268, the Continuing Resolution that would reopen government through February 8 and fund important disaster relief, including funding to prevent Puerto Rico from running out of vital nutrition assistance.

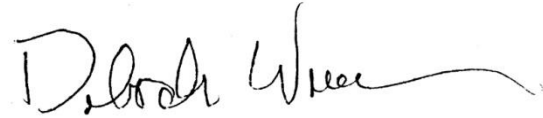
Our members, who include human service providers, faith groups, policy experts, civil rights, labor, and other advocates for meeting the needs of low-income people, know that it is vital all government agencies reopen now. It is unconscionable that the Trump Administration’s intransigence in seeking border wall funding and restrictive anti-immigrant policies has turned 800,000 federal workers, many thousands of federal contract workers, and those who need federal services into hostages. Our economy is suffering. Every day we draw closer to loss of food and housing assistance affecting millions of people. Some low-income tenants have already received notices telling them to pay huge rent increases; SNAP/food stamp families will have to stretch their February benefits far longer than usual. Public health and safety is being compromised.

This must end, but **not** by agreeing to extreme immigration proposals, many of which harshly target children. We are outraged by the inclusion in the “End the Shutdown and Secure the Border Act” of provisions that would make things worse for people with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) protections. Those now with DACA status would face doubled fees, a new requirement that their income exceeds 125 percent of the poverty line if they are not students, and other arbitrary restrictions. Only TPS holders from certain countries would get temporary protections; countries including Guinea, Sierra Leone, Nepal, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia and Syria are left out, despite desperate conditions in those states. In addition, the bill would harshly and unacceptably restrict access to asylum, in large part aimed at banning Central American children from protection. Barring Central American young people under age 18 from seeking asylum at our border for at least a year and drastically restricting applicants for asylum afterwards is inhumane; that alone is ample reason to oppose this bill. CHN continues to oppose the wasteful and ineffective \$5.7 billion for wall construction and enforcement measures. We should not be increasing ICE’s capacity to jail migrants from about 40,000 a day as approved in March 2018 to 52,000.

We would far prefer legislation for full-year appropriations for all the remaining government agencies, excluding wasteful border wall and excessive enforcement funding, and rejecting the extreme and extraneous anti-immigrant measures described above. But before you on Thursday is a clear opportunity to stop the harm of the shutdown – you can vote for the temporary funding through

February 8 provided in H.R. 268. Please cast that vote to reopen government, and reject the “End the Shutdown and Secure the Border Act.”

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