

# Our Path Forward:

Practical ways to protect people  
from harm despite threats  
from the new Administration  
and Congress

Webinar by the **Coalition on Human Needs**  
**Tuesday, January 7, 2025**



# Thank to our generous funders

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# Presenters and moderator:



**Linda Spears** | President and CEO - Child Welfare League of America

Linda S. Spears, MSW was appointed President and CEO of the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) in October 2023. She is a veteran social worker and policy expert who returned to CWLA after serving as the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families Commissioner for over eight years.

**Raha Wala** | Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Advocacy  
National Immigration Law Center

Raha is an advocacy strategist, lobbyist, and lawyer with over 15 years of experience designing, leading, and implementing human rights advocacy campaigns. At NILC, Raha leads the Strategic Partnerships & Advocacy department and advocate for the interests of immigrant communities with lawmakers and officials at all government levels.



**Amy Matsui** | Senior Director of Income Security - National Women's Law Center

At NWLC, Amy works on a broad range of economic issues affecting low- and moderate-income women and families, with special emphasis on federal and state tax policy. Her work comprises policy analysis, state and federal advocacy, and public education and outreach.



## **Deborah Weinstein** | Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs

Deborah Weinstein has been the Executive Director at the Coalition on Human Needs since 2003. In her four decades of advocacy experience, Debbie has worked on a wide range of issues at both the state and federal levels.

## **Dorian Warren** | Co-President Community Change

Dorian Warren is Co-President of Community Change & Community Change Action, and co-chair of the Economic Security Project. A progressive scholar, organizer, and media personality, Dorian has worked to advance racial, economic, and social justice for over two decades. He previously held the position of vice president at Community Change.



## **Ellen Teller** | Chief Government Affairs Officer, Food Research & Action Center Moderator

As chief government affairs officer, Ellen Teller directs the development and implementation of FRAC's legislative agenda. Working with Congress, national organizations, and FRAC's diverse state and local grassroots field network, Ellen advocates for improved access and participation to domestic anti-hunger programs for low-income individuals and families.

## **Our Path Forward:**

**How to get  
maximum  
leverage in the  
upcoming  
federal budget  
battles**

**Debbie Weinstein**



# One “big beautiful bill?”

**Small House margin**

**+**

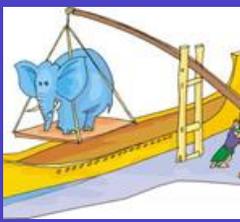
**Differing priorities**

**+**

**Putting many issues together**

**≠**

**Big beautiful bill**



# Leverage points

## Small House margin

- **After a few departures, House Republican majority will temporarily be 217-215.**
- **Losing even 1 vote means a 216-216 tie.**
- **That fails.**
- **3 seats will be filled in April and May (probably).**

## Differing Priorities

- **Some care about deficit - want to pay for tax cuts.**
- **Some just want to cut programs.**
- **Some skittish about deep program cuts.**
- **Some want to increase spending ("border," defense)**
- **Some want to shut off all immigration; some don't.**
- **Some want to extend 2017 tax cuts.**
- **Some want more tax cuts.**

## Hard to put issues together

- **Some who want to cut spending will tie that to raising debt limit.**
- **Some who want more spending will object.**
- **Some will want to pay for tax cuts; some don't.**
- **Some will want quick wins.**

# Practical tools and resources

- [Toolkit - how to set up a strategic group meeting with your rep.](#)
- [CHN's Poverty Resource Library:](#) An expansive library of data on poverty, health insurance, income, housing burden, and more by state, congressional district, and major metropolitan area.
- [CHN's State Data Library:](#) More data on Housing cost burden, Ppl living with Disabilities, Health Insurance and more with breakdowns of the data by demographics.
- Fact Sheets about harm from cuts and about more positive approaches- to be sent in later follow-ups
- [Take Action](#) with the Coalition on Human Needs.
- [National Immigration Law Center's Know Your Rights resources](#)

# Stay Connected:

## **State and local advocates affiliated with organizations:**

Please sign up for the [Federal Connection listserv by click this link](#), provide your email, and check the Federal Connection box to receive future meeting and training notices.

## **1<sup>st</sup> 2025 Zoom meeting: Sign up via the link above to get invite.**

Thursday, January 16, 3 p.m. ET:

Training for setting up a meeting with your members of Congress.

***Questions?***

**Contact Dominique Espinoza, [despinoza@chn.org](mailto:despinoza@chn.org)**

**Thank you for joining.**

**You can be an essential part of leveraging divisions among Reps to prevent cuts to vital programs -**

**and to stop tax cuts for the ultra-wealthy.**





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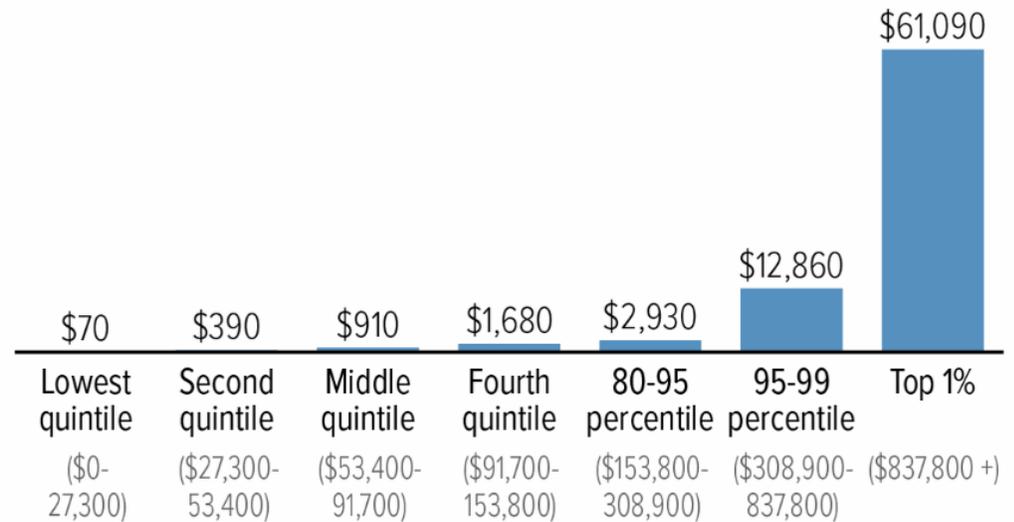
# What Advocates Need to Know About the 2025 Tax Debate

# The 2017 Tax Law

- Enacted large tax cuts, disproportionately benefits top 1% and largest corporations.
- Cost trillions of dollars that cannot be invested in programs that families rely on
- Most temporary provisions will expire on December 31, 2025
  - Extending would cost an additional **\$4.6 trillion**

## Households With Incomes in Top 1 Percent Benefit Most From 2017 Trump Tax Law

Average federal tax change, 2025



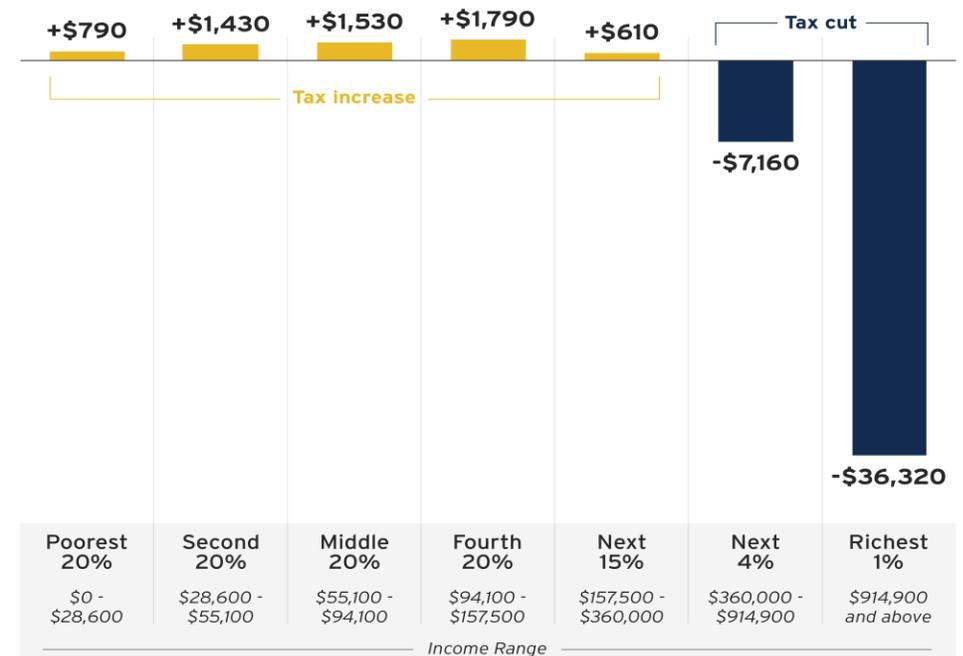
Source: Table 2, Distributional Analysis of the Conference Agreement for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Tax Policy Center

# More Tax Cuts Floated During the Campaign

- Trump campaign promises add up to at least \$8 trillion dollars (including TCJA extensions)
- Regressive: tax cuts for the wealthiest, tax increases for everyone else →
- **Major uncertainty** around what will be proposed on the Hill

## Trump Proposals Cut Taxes for the Richest 5 Percent, Raise Taxes for Other Groups

Average tax change by income group in 2026



Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, October 2024

# Less Revenue = Less Help for Families

- Tax package will likely lose trillions in federal revenue
- Cuts to Medicaid and SNAP have already been floated
- Other cuts could include education, green energy, IRS funding, and other NDD spending

## Attempts to hide true costs

- Timing: tax changes delayed or sunset
- Using “current policy” as the starting point to claim temporary tax cuts are already permanent
- Tariffs may be claimed to raise revenue – keep in mind tariffs cause prices to rise on consumer goods, affecting low-income families the most

# Tax Credits that Support Families Are Part of the 2025 Debate

- 2017 changes to the Child Tax Credit (CTC) are expiring
- ARPA expansions (expired in 2021)
  - CTC
  - EITC for workers who don't claim children
  - Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC aka child care credit)
- Expanded health care subsidies (Premium Tax Credit) expire in 2025

# Possible risks to CTC in 2025 fight

- "Improvements" that don't make a difference for families who need most support
- Excluding even more immigrant families
- Problematic changes like
  - Fetal personhood
  - Offsetting other benefits (like EITC, CDCTC, or Head of Household)
- Doubling down on “work requirements” (aka earned income)

# Reconciliation Process

- Special legislative vehicle to avoid the filibuster
- Budget resolution will state how much the reconciliation bill will increase the deficit – expected in January
  - Could be just taxes or taxes and spending
  - One reconciliation package or two?
- Committee process to write and mark up legislation
- Amendments + address differences between House and Senate
- Final passage & Presidential signature – as early as Memorial Day?

# The Public Supports Progressive Tax Policies

## NWLC Election Night Polling

	Very important	Somewhat important	Total important
Expanding the Child Tax Credit to provide larger tax refunds to help low- and middle-income families make ends meet and to significantly reduce child poverty	41%	35%	76%
Ensuring that billionaires and corporations pay their fair share of taxes to support public investments in housing, caregiving, and health care	55%	19%	74%

# The 2025 Tax Fight = Everyone's Fight

- Revenues, revenues, revenues
- Federal spending cuts to pay for tax cuts for the richest
- Shifting costs to states
- Reject supporting small "win" in a hugely problematic overall package

# What Does Winning Look Like?

- Slow down the process and make the tax bill as toxic as possible
- Everyday families aren't paying for even more tax cuts for billionaires and corporations
- Protect investments in people, families, and communities

# How Advocates Can Get Involved

- Connect tax fight to your advocacy priorities
- Explain how tax cuts would affect your constituencies
- Plug into coalition efforts
  - Americans for Tax Fairness (ATF)
  - Fair Share America
  - Stay tuned!
- Educate your networks
- Engage at key moments

# NWLC Resources

- [Talking points](#) on taxing the rich to fund care investments for everyone
- [Tax the Patriarchy](#)—online interactive tool
- [Blog](#) on 2023 poverty data that connects taxes and investments
- NWLC [action alert](#)
- Need something else? Let me know!  
Amy Matsui, [amatsui@nwlc.org](mailto:amatsui@nwlc.org)