

Californians Oppose the House Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Resolution



We, the undersigned representing charitable and nonprofit organizations, service providers, faith leaders, unions and advocates for low- and middle-income Californians in California, write to express our strong opposition to the House Fiscal Year 2018 budget resolution passed by the House Budget Committee in July, which lays out a harsh economic vision for California and this nation. If approved, this resolution would set into motion a plan that would cause pain for millions of Californians, especially those in your districts who have fallen on hard times, while paving the way for massive tax cuts geared toward those who are already the most well off.

As you know, the Fiscal Year 2018 budget resolution passed by the House Budget Committee in July would use reconciliation to force billions of dollars of cuts to programs that help individuals and families in California, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, and the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits. These programs help struggling Californians afford the basics—food on the table, a roof over their heads, and access to health care. The budget resolution also calls for stunning cuts in a range of basic public services and investments in our nation, such as job training, K-12 education, access to college, scientific research, and economic development. Finally, it undermines our future generations by failing to adequately fund child care and afterschool programs.

At the same time, the resolution would pave the way for massive tax cuts that will overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest households and profitable corporations. Further, because the resolution includes special instructions to provide for “deficit-neutral” tax reform, Congress could choose to pay for these tax cuts by making even deeper cuts in programs serving low- and middle-income families.

The implications of the House Budget Resolution for Californians and our communities across the state are significant and should be a priority concern for you in determining how you will vote in

the coming months. You will find a factsheet of the specific impacts of people in your districts at this link: <http://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/fact-sheets-federal-impact/>

The facts don't lie – the House Budget Resolution passed by the Budget Committee is bad for individuals and families in your districts, bad for Californians overall, and harmful for the nation.

We urge you to reject these upside-down budget priorities, and put the needs of all California families at the top of the agenda. **We call upon you to oppose the House budget resolution passed by the Budget Committee and work instead to craft a budget that:**

- **Does not establish a reconciliation process to cut programs that help struggling individuals and families afford the basics;**
- **Does not allow cuts to assistance programs to help offset the cost of tax cuts; and**
- **Requires that tax legislation is *revenue* neutral.**

We also call upon you to work toward a bipartisan agreement to eliminate sequestration cuts in non-defense discretionary spending with equal relief between non-defense and defense priorities. Non-defense discretionary programs support key services in California—from education to job training to economic development to the Community Services Block Grant to important research conducted in our universities and that is key to our nation's future. Congress on a bipartisan basis has come together in the past to reduce the harmful sequestration cuts. Without action, those temporary fixes will expire and full sequestration cuts will go into effect in 2018, leaving key investments under-funded. At these funding levels, many core public services would be severely impaired or eliminated. Our state budget and local communities in our state would also take a significant hit, as federal grants to states and localities make up nearly one-third of total non-defense discretionary spending.

California communities thrive when all of us can put food on their table; when workers, parents, children, seniors, and people with disabilities get the health care they need; when schools are not shortchanged; when workers can get the training they need to succeed in today's economy; and when we invest in all of our neighborhoods. The House budget resolution passed by the Budget Committee falls short on every one of these points.

We urge you to oppose the resolution and instead craft a budget that protects the well-being of Californians and our communities.

Thank you for considering our views.

ACLU of California
Alameda County Community Food Bank
Alameda County Homeless Action Center
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)
Alliance to Transform CalFresh
Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
American Nurses Association – California
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Asian Law Alliance
Association of CA Caregiver Resource Centers
California Association of Food Banks
California Association of Nonprofits
California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS

California Asset Building Coalition
California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports
California Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations
California Coalition for Rural Housing
California Calls
Children's Defense Fund – California
California Elder Justice Coalition
California Food Policy Advocates
Californians for Disability Rights Inc.
Californians for SSI
California Health+ Advocates
California Hepatitis Alliance
California Hunger Action Coalition
California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA)
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Partnership
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)
California Partnership to End Domestic Violence
California Reinvestment Corporation
California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) Foundation
Children Now
California Women's Law Center
Center for Healthcare Rights
Choice in Aging
Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Congress of California Seniors
Courage Campaign
Community Health Councils
Community Housing Partnership
Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL)
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Disability Rights California (DRC)
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Downtown Women's Center
EARN
East Bay Community Law Center
Educate. Advocate. California
Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa
Equality California
Equal Rights Advocates
Family Caregiver Alliance
Feeding San Diego
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County
Food for People Humboldt County
FoodLink for Tulare County
Fresno Metro Ministry
Friends in Deed - California
Having Our Say Coalition
Health Access California

Hunger Action Los Angeles
Homebridge
Instituto de Educación Popular del Sur de California (IDEPSCA)
Insight Center for Community Economic Development
International Institute of Los Angeles
Jewish Family Services, Los Angeles
Jewish Family Services, San Diego
Jumpstart
Justice in Aging
Korean Community Services
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Lideres Campesinas
LifeSTEPS - Life Skills Training & Educational Programs
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Los Angeles Black Worker Center
Los Angeles Community Action Network
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California
Meals on Wheels California
Meals on Wheels San Francisco
Mission Asset Fund
Mi Familia Vota
Multipurpose Senior Services Program
National Health Law Program
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
Orange County Food Access Coalition
Parent Voices Statewide Organizer
Partners in Care Foundation
PICO California
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Institute
Public Interest Law Project
Redwood Empire Food Bank
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee
Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness (SRCEH)
San Francisco Marin Food Bank
San Diego Food Bank
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County
Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County
Self-Help Enterprises
Senior & Disability Action
Senior Advocates of the Desert
Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County (40 CBO members strong Serving Seniors)
St. Mary's Center
St. Anthony Foundation
Street Roots
Street Spirit
Swipe Out Hunger

The Arc of California
The California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA)
The Children's Partnership
The Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
United Domestic Workers (UDW) – The Home Care Providers Union
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) – Western State's Council
UC Hastings College of Law
Voices for Progress
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP)
Women Organizing Resources Knowledge and Services (WORKS)
Women's Foundation of California
Young Invincibles – California
Youth Justice Coalition

[Join US! Add Your Organization's Name by emailing jbartholow@wclp.org]