

August 9th 2017

[MOC NAME]

[MOC ADDRESS]

Dear Rep. [X]:

We, the undersigned organizations representing [faith leaders/service providers/charitable organizations/nonprofit organizations/etc.—will fill in this section based on our signers] in New York, 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 this nation. If approved, this resolution would set into motion a plan that would cause pain for millions of families, especially those 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 New York, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, and the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits to name just a few. These programs help struggling families 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, housing and more.

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 House Budget Resolution passed by the Budget Committee is bad for New York families and contrary to our values.

We urge you to reject these upside-down budget priorities, and put the needs of all of New York’s 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 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 New York 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 underfunded. 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.

New York's communities thrive when all families 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 upholds New York's best values.

Thank you for considering our views.