



June 26, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Fair Budget Coalition, we are writing to express our strong opposition to the House Reconciliation Bill (H.R.1) and to any similar bill considered by the Senate. The Fair Budget Coalition represents an alliance of civil rights, allied organizations, and policy experts committed to ensuring that federal fiscal policy reflects the needs of all communities, particularly those that have been historically under-resourced. The emerging budget reconciliation bill that the Senate will consider soon will have a lasting impact on working families and communities across the country.

The cuts made in the House-passed budget bill and the Senate budget cuts released to date would cause millions of Americans to lose their health care coverage and food assistance and, therefore, deepen long-standing inequities by targeting healthcare, nutrition, and tax relief programs that millions of Black, Latino, Indigenous, and low-income families rely on to survive. A fair budget must invest in these pillars, not gut them. Big corporations and the wealthiest Americans should contribute their fair share to sustain essential public investments and reduce economic inequality.

We were hopeful that the Senate bill would be an improvement upon the House language, but the versions available thus far also make historic cuts and harmful changes to Medicaid and SNAP as well as ACA health coverage to pay for tax cuts for billionaires. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) that could help lower income working families is, like the House provision, written in such a way that 17 million children will be left out of the increased benefits the provision would provide. It also eliminates eligibility for children who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents if

their parent or one of their parents does not have a Social Security number. The impact is not as severe as the House version, but will still affect about [2 million children](#). Regarding the Earned Income Tax Credit ([EITC](#)), in both the House and Senate proposals, the about 17 million households that receive it will be subject to a burdensome precertification requirement that will cause some to lose the credit due to their inability to deal with the unnecessary layers of red tape the requirement adds. This is a double standard that creates burdens for low- and middle-income tax filers that does not exist for higher-income filers. Please also consider that the Internal Revenue Service is not equipped to administer such an expansive new requirement.

Protecting and strengthening basic needs programs is essential to supporting families and communities. Instead, H.R. 1 makes the deepest cuts to Medicaid and SNAP in history. Under the House bill, about 16 million low- and moderate-income people would lose health coverage and become uninsured. They are disproportionately Black, Latino, and rural, with states like Mississippi, South Carolina, and Georgia facing the steepest impacts. The Senate Finance Committee text makes even steeper cuts to Medicaid. [The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) “estimates that the Senate bill would put 9.8 million to 14.8 million people at risk of losing Medicaid coverage in 2034, roughly 160,000 to 380,000 more people than under the House version.” Adding to those impacts, the [Senate Finance Committee](#) text does not extend the premium tax credit enhancements and would cause about 22 million people to lose health coverage altogether or see their health coverage costs increase drastically.

The Senate reduction to SNAP is not as severe but will still cause harm to millions. The Congressional Budget Office has confirmed that the original proposed Republican Senate SNAP provisions would end SNAP for 2.9 million Americans, including 1.1 million who live where jobs are scarce, 900 thousand seniors, 600 thousand parents, and 270 thousand veterans, homeless, and former foster youth. Keep in mind that with so many parents losing coverage, the children in those families will have less food on the table.

Additionally, protecting civil rights and equal opportunity in our increasingly tech-driven world is essential to ensuring that all communities have a fair shot at success. Instead, H.R. 1 imposes a 10-year ban on the enforcement of all state and local laws that regulate any kind of artificially intelligent model or system. In particular, this moratorium will undermine existing state protections against AI uses that lead to discriminatory or unfair outcomes in credit, housing, employment, education, voting access, and more. It will also restrict state’s ability to place limits on the use of tech-driven surveillance, including facial recognition technology, and carries [concerning implications](#) for states’ ability to collect tax revenue from things like data centers, rideshare apps, or e-commerce. Even more concerning, the version of this moratorium pending in the Senate Commerce Committee premises state funding for broadband *already obligated* under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program on accepting the AI moratorium. This creates an impossible choice for states and presents a cruel irony: the same communities most vulnerable to Artificially Intelligent systems’ harmful impacts would be forced to trade basic civil rights and fairness protections to receive the basic broadband infrastructure they lack and desperately need. This would block states from protecting against AI bias in voting, hiring, and housing undermining civil rights where no federal guardrails exist.

As Congress makes its way through the Reconciliation process, we urge you to protect these core priorities and leave out harmful provisions on AI, the courts, and other areas. The decisions made in this budget cycle will define the future of economic opportunity and social mobility in America. Cuts to essential programs, weakened basic needs programs, and underfunded public investments would have devastating consequences for families and communities across the country.

The communities we represent are counting on Congress to protect these essential investments and uphold the values of fairness and economic opportunity. Please contact Angela Ohm, National Urban League Vice President, Appropriations and Advancement, at aohm@nul.org, with any questions or if you need more information.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to these critical issues. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

Reverend Al Sharpton
Founder and President
National Action Network

Janet Murguía
President and CEO
UnidosUS

Derrick Johnson
President and CEO
NAACP

Dedrick Asante-Muhammad
President
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

Dr. Michael McAfee
CEO
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Reverend Shavon Arline-Bradley
CEO and President
NCNW

Deborah Weinstein
Executive Director
Coalition on Human Needs

Joel Berg,
CEO Hunger Free America

cc: Senate Budget Committee
Senate Finance Committee
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Members of the United States Senate