

To sign on to this letter to Minnesota's Congressional delegation, please fill out the information below by close of business Thursday, August 24th, and send an email reply to bhorowitz@mnbudgetproject.org.

For further information or questions, please contact Ben Horowitz at bhorowitz@mnbudgetproject.org or call 651-757-3065.

Organization Name (as you want it to appear on the letter):

Organization city/state/zip: _____
Contact person name: _____
Contact person title: _____
Contact person phone: _____
Contact person email: _____

August X, 2017

[MOC NAME]
[MOC ADDRESS]

Dear Rep. [X]/Dear Sens. [X] and [X]:

We, the undersigned organizations representing XXXX Minnesota organizations, write to express our strong opposition to the House FY 2018 budget resolution passed by the House Budget Committee in July. 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.

We urge you to reject these upside-down budget priorities, and put the needs of all Minnesota 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 entitlement programs that help struggling families afford the basics, like health care and nutrition;**
- **Requires that tax legislation is *revenue* neutral;**
- **Eliminates sequestration cuts in non-defense discretionary spending, with equal relief between non-defense and defense priorities; and**
- **Does not allow cuts to assistance programs to be used to offset the cost of tax cuts.**

The FY 2018 budget resolution passed by the House Budget Committee in July would use the reconciliation process to force billions of dollars of cuts to programs that help individuals and families in Minnesota. More Minnesotans could experience hunger after losing access to SNAP. More Minnesota mothers could struggle to find work and support their children due to the weakening of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. Reduced funding for Medicaid could threaten the ability of Minnesotans to access affordable health care. Cuts to Supplemental Security Income, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Child Tax Credit could leave Minnesotans with fewer resources to meet their most basic needs.

The budget resolution's deep cuts, in tandem with sequestration cuts to non-defense discretionary spending, would radically decrease support for key services in Minnesota—from education to job training to economic development to the Community Services Block Grant to important research conducted in our universities that is key to our nation's future.

The scope of the cuts would be stunning: at the proposed funding levels, many core public services would be severely impaired or eliminated. Minnesota's state budget and local communities across our state would also take a significant hit, as federal grants to states and localities make up nearly one-third of non-defense discretionary spending. Our ability to attract and retain a world-class workforce would be threatened. Congress must work to find another way forward on the federal budget, and in undoing the harmful effects of sequestration, should provide equal relief to non-defense and defense spending.

Even as it decimates important public investments, the resolution would pave the way for massive tax cuts that would overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest households and profitable corporations. Further, because the resolution includes special instructions to provide for "deficit-neutral" rather than revenue-neutral tax reform, Congress could choose to pay for these tax cuts by making even deeper cuts in critical services for low- and middle-income families.

Minnesota 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 short-changed; 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 Minnesota's best values.

Thank you for considering our views. For more information, please contact Ben Horowitz at the Minnesota Budget Project at 651-757-3065.