

Call Your Senators and Representative: Tell Them, **Don't Cut the Basics!**

Federal Budget Action Days:

Call the Capitol, Tuesday and Wednesday,
March 15 and 16



Tell them to protect children, older people, people with disabilities and families by opposing cuts in Medicaid, nutrition, education, and other vital services.



Tell them to oppose any budget that cuts basic services for millions in order to protect more and more tax cuts for the wealthy few.

TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1-800-247-2971

This toll-free number is provided courtesy of the American Friends Service Committee which has launched a new budget campaign, www.saveourservices.org If you can't get through on that line, please call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or find your Senators' direct line at www.senate.gov.



The House and Senate will vote on their budget resolutions during the week of March 14 – Your calls are urgently needed!

Spread the word to your networks today!

For more information, contact Steve Wamhoff at the Coalition on Human Needs, (202) 223-2532; swamhoff@chn.org Find lots of facts about threatened cuts at www.chn.org

The budget proposals cut basic services for vulnerable people in order to protect tax cuts for the wealthy. These are bad choices.

Which is the best choice?	
Capital gains and stock dividends tax cuts in 2010:	\$8.00 billion
Or, in 2010:	
Avoiding Administration's cut to special education for the disabled:	2.30 billion
Avoiding Administration's cut to School Improvement programs:	1.19 billion
Avoiding Administration's cut to WIC (infant, child, pregnant women nutrition)	0.47 billion
Avoiding Administration's cut to Head Start and services to abused and neglected children:	1.14 billion
Avoiding Administration's cuts to community development:	2.12 billion
Avoiding Administration's cuts to vocational and adult education:	1.27 billion
Avoiding Administration's cuts to low-income energy aid (LIHEAP):	<u>0.16 billion</u>
Total:	\$8.65 billion

Deep cuts to low-income discretionary programs. Domestic discretionary programs (those appropriated each year) would be cut by \$216 billion over five years under the House resolution. The cuts would hit education, housing, Head Start, veterans' benefits, community services and many other programs. In 2010 alone, those cuts amount to 14 percent below the level of current services, adjusted for inflation.

The Senate resolution would cut these same programs by \$207 billion over five years, cutting 13 percent below current services in 2010. (The President's budget cut domestic discretionary programs by \$214 billion over 5 years.)

Deep cuts to low-income mandatory programs. Under the House resolution, mandatory programs (which include Medicaid, the Earned Income Tax Credit, TANF and Food Stamps) would be slashed by \$68.6 billion over the next five years. (The Medicaid cut could be as much as \$20 billion.) The Senate resolution would cut mandatory programs by \$32 billion over five years. (The Medicaid cut could be as much as \$15 billion.) The President's budget assumed \$7.6 billion in Medicaid cuts from FY 2006 – FY 2010. Budget resolutions do not specify exactly which programs would suffer cuts – instead they give instructions to the authorizing committees to find the savings in programs under their jurisdiction.

More tax cuts! Even while slashing programs that help the neediest Americans, both the House and Senate resolutions make room for *still more tax cuts*. The House resolution assumes \$106 billion in tax cuts over the next five years; the Senate resolution makes room for \$70 billion in tax cuts in the same period. Included in both resolutions is an extension of tax breaks for capital gains and dividends – a tax break which does not even expire until 2008. The Senate resolution relies on the same fast-track approval procedure (reconciliation) for its \$70 billion in tax cuts that is used for cutting Medicaid and other mandatory programs.

For more details on the House, Senate, and President's budget proposals, check the websites of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (www.cbpp.org) and the Coalition on Human Needs (www.chn.org).

