

5/11/23

Budget Committee Hearing: “Exposing the Woke, Wasteful, and Bloated Bureaucracy”

**Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-12) Question for the Record:**

Please direct this question to the Democratic Witness, Mr. Dutta Gupta.

“In my own state of California, cuts proposed by Republicans will put over 2.6 million people at risk of losing Medicaid coverage, eliminate preschool and childcare for at least 35,000 children, and reduce access to outpatient care at Veterans Affairs medical facilities by approximately 2.3 million visits. These are impacts on people’s daily lives, they are not just statistics. These are real everyday challenges people will face if these cuts are passed.

**What additional impacts are the American people going to feel if Republican budget cuts are implemented?”**

The Republican Limit, Save, Grow Act includes a number of budget cuts affecting the American people. These cuts would impede on any progress that has been made in reducing the wealth gap and achieving racial equity, and Americans would feel the effects of these policies for years to come. Some key provisions of that bill that would be particularly detrimental are listed below:

- Instituting discretionary spending limits for 10 years, beginning federal fiscal year 2024 (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024), that would be sizeable from the start and would become increasingly severe over time as they failed to keep up with inflation and population growth. The legislation does not set separate caps for military and domestic discretionary spending, and House Republican leaders have suggested that both military spending and veterans’ health care would be protected, forcing even more extreme cuts to the remaining programs.
- Rescinding the approximately 2 percent of funds appropriated for combatting the pandemic that remain unobligated.
- Rescinding long-needed funding for the Internal Revenue Service that is helping level the playing field between the wealthy and working class.
- Undoing President Biden’s student debt relief and income-driven loan repayment plans.
- Undermining or eliminating recently enacted incentives to help address the climate crisis while expanding fossil fuel investments.

- Mandating new work reporting requirements to take food, health coverage, and meager income supports from people.
- Restricting longstanding regulatory authority from federal agencies.

In particular, the cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF would shrink health coverage and grow poverty. The bill's provisions would expand or impose novel bureaucratic work reporting requirements, despite decades of empirical evidence making clear that mandates are ineffective in promoting work. Millions of people, including more than a million children could lose benefits due to the onerous paperwork requirements, including many who are working or should qualify for an exemption.

The damaging impacts of the Republican budget cuts resulting from the discretionary caps in the "Limit, Save, Grow Act", would be widespread—or impossibly deep if concentrated among a smaller share of vital programs that keep American children and families healthy and safe. If implemented, the cuts will be particularly harmful to low-income individuals and families and people of color. The legislation slashes everything including programs that support economic success such as school meals, job training, housing assistance, and access to postsecondary education.

According to analyses by the White House, the bill would also cut 780,000 jobs from our economy. 1.7 million women, infants and children could lose nutrition assistance, and 600,000 families would lose access to rental assistance. 200,000 children, would lose access to child care and 180,000 would be cut from Head Start. This will force more parents to drop out of the workforce and fewer people contributing to the economy.

The Pell Grant program could also be completely eliminated for 80,000 students and those who retained it would lose close to \$1,000. This will make it much harder for lower income students to access postsecondary education and will reduce enrollment at public institutions. 700,000 Americans would also be unable to access job training and employment services through the Department of Labor.