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Executive Director

October 25, 2017

Dear Representative:


On behalf of the more than three million members of the National Education Association (NEA), and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to Vote No on the FY 2018 budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 25) which paves the way for massive tax cuts for the wealthy. The budget should reflect the priorities of our nation and should especially meet the needs of children and those most in need. Actions on this issue may be included in the NEA Legislative Report Card for the 115th Congress.

We strongly oppose S. Con. Res. 25 because it takes us in the wrong direction as a nation by paving the way for dramatic cuts to essential programs and services like Medicare and Medicaid in order to finance tax cuts for the wealthy. Specifically, we oppose:

- Making dramatic cuts for essential programs to finance a massive tax cut for the wealthy and add \$1.5 trillion to our country's debt. According to the Tax Policy Center, the top one percent of households would get 80 percent of the framework's tax cuts, or more than \$200,000 annually on average, while 30% of taxpayers making between \$50,000 and \$150,000 would see their taxes increase.
- Eliminating the tax deduction on state and local taxes (SALT). If SALT were repealed, almost 30% of taxpayers, including individuals in every state in all income brackets, would be adversely affected. States and local governments must balance their budgets every year, any change that disrupts the stability of their tax structure will harm their ability to fund essential services, like education. ([See the GFOA Report](#))
- Doubling down on deep cuts to education and other domestic programs. This proposal would cut Non-Defense-Discretionary programs (i.e. education, health care, job training, etc.) by setting spending at the sequester level in 2018 and cutting spending for NDD programs by \$5 trillion over the next decade. In 2027, NDD spending as a share of the economy would drop to levels not seen since the Hoover Administration. This would force even deeper cuts to crucial investments like education, depriving students of the opportunity for a quality education they all deserve.
- Slashing Medicaid and other health programs, which provide healthcare for more than one-third of our nation's children. Overall funding for Medicaid and other programs would be cut by more than \$1 trillion over the next decade, while Medicare would be cut by more than \$470 billion over the next decade.
- Student aid cuts, which appear to include deep cuts to the Pell Grant program and student loans. We should be working to make college more affordable for more students.

For too long Congress has tied its own hands with senseless and untenable budget caps, resulting in wholly inadequate funding levels for critical programs like education. This budget would make that problem worse and does so in order to set the stage to enact massive tax cuts for the wealthy while raising taxes on middle-class families. We urge you to Vote No on the FY18 budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 25).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Egan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc Egan
Director, Government Relations
National Education Association