

The National Call-in Week to Save Vital Services: This week, Tell your Representative,

"Do Not Go Forward with Budget Cuts for Vital Human Needs Programs"

[Nov. 8, 2005] All week, call your U.S. Representative toll-free: 800-426-8073.

The House of Representatives is expected to vote this Thursday on a proposal to slash assistance for some of the most vulnerable people in America - families lacking health insurance; abused and neglected children; single mothers trying to collect child support; working families relying on food stamps; people with severe disabilities; and others.

Call your Representative all week TOLL-FREE. Tell them that, as a Presbyterian, you urge them not to go forward with the budget reconciliation process that cuts funding for vital human needs services. Particularly in light of the devastation of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and new data showing that poverty and hunger are increasing, reducing funding to vital human needs services - including Medicaid, food stamps, and child support enforcement - is unacceptable.

Step 1: Today or any day that week, call 1-800-426-8073 to be connected toll-free to the Capitol Switchboard. Ask to speak to your Representative. (If you don't know who your Representative is, the people at the Capitol Switchboard can tell you, or you can visit [http://capwiz.com/pcusa/dbq/officials/.](http://capwiz.com/pcusa/dbq/officials/))

Step 2: After you are connected to your Representative's office, say:

"My name is _____ and I live in (your town/city). I would like Representative [name] to vote NO on the reconciliation bill to cut \$50 billion in vital services to vulnerable people, including Medicaid, SSI, foster care, Food Stamps, and child support. These cuts are the wrong priorities. Vote against these cuts - since they will have a devastating impact on the least of these among us. Thank you."

Many thanks to American Friends Service Committee for donating the toll-free number.

Background:

The FY 2006 Congressional Budget Resolution, which Congress approved earlier this year, instructed the House and Senate committees to design policies to cut \$35 billion over five years from programs under their jurisdiction. The Senate passed their budget reconciliation package, S 1932, 52-47, on November 3rd. The House Budget Committee passed a budget reconciliation proposal that would cut a net \$53.9 billion from mandatory spending over five years. The proposal, which includes funding reductions for the Food Stamp Program, Medicaid, child support enforcement, foster care, and student loans and includes the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF), may be brought up on the House floor for a vote this week.

--ByCarolynn Race

General Assembly Policy:

The 207th General Assembly (1995) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) called on Congress "to defeat any proposals that base budget or deficit reductions primarily on the services provided to children, families, the needy, and the

homeless" and urged strengthening of federal commitments to these groups. The Assembly also called on Congress "to insist on a government that follows ethical values of justice for the poor, welfare for children, hospitality to the stranger, and assistance to the disadvantaged." (Minutes, p. 718)

For more information and to send an e-mail to your Representative, go to http://capwiz.com/pcusa/mail/oneclick_compose/?alertid=8193511.

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