

## GROUP LETTER SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE BUDGET AND DEBT POLICIES

May xxx, 2023

Dear Representative/Senator:

The undersigned \_\_\_ organizations come together to urge you to support responsible policies to strengthen our nation and build shared prosperity. Broadly shared public investments have throughout our history enhanced our economic security. Investments during the pandemic made it possible to stop a deep recession in its tracks. Now we face a choice: will we reverse our hard-won progress and risk economic decline? Or will we continue our progress by investing in our people?

The signers of this letter represent human service providers, faith groups, policy experts, labor, civil rights, disability, veterans, and other anti-poverty advocates who see the precarious position of our people nationwide. We are alarmed at calls to dramatically cut or cap spending on key anti-hunger, health, housing, early childhood, and other programs and urge you to **reject efforts to take away assistance from people with low incomes or impose administrative barriers that make it harder for people to access needed assistance**, including those facing food and housing insecurity, struggling with health and care costs, and dealing with other hardships that make it harder to make ends meet. The end of the public health emergency means that Medicaid, SNAP, housing and other benefits **that are still needed by millions of people** are shrinking or ending. Congress should be responding to unmet need; it must not make things worse.

There are proposals in Congress that would substantially cut and/or cap vital programs such as SNAP nutrition assistance, Medicaid, and the full range of annually appropriated domestic and international needs. These cuts would threaten our economy. Moody's Analytics economist Mark Zandi and colleagues [warn that deep spending cuts](#) could trigger "a recession in 2024, costing the economy 2.6 million jobs at the worst of the downturn and pushing unemployment to a peak of near 6 percent."

Instead, we must strengthen these investments. **Putting the needs of people with the lowest incomes first is both a moral and an economic imperative. It is critical that policies do more to address longstanding disparities by race and income**, including maternal mortality, food insecurity, and gaps in access to affordable and accessible housing, health care, and education, along with addressing challenges for women, children and youth, older adults, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA individuals, survivors of violence, veterans, rural communities, and others. Deep cuts to anti-poverty policies will take us backwards and make us less able to sustain future economic growth.

Responsible budget choices mean support for increasing revenues from wealthy individuals and corporations, both by collecting what they owe under current law and by fair new tax policies targeting the wealthiest and corporations. Responsibility also requires you to reduce wasteful spending. Congress can do this through strategies such as expanding drug price negotiations, reducing excessive payments for corporate military contractors, and limiting detention and incarceration. With fair and adequate

revenues plus well-targeted savings that do not reduce needed services, Congress can fund the investments we need and still make substantial reductions in the deficit.

Below are some of the important policies we want to highlight as areas of concern:

- The **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** is our nation's most significant and effective anti-hunger program; it promotes economic security, health, and well-being. A [number of studies](#) have shown SNAP to reduce food insecurity by as much as 30 percent, and even more among children. Our nation must do more to address hunger and SNAP has a key part to play. Congress should reject any proposals that take food assistance away from families, or efforts to weaken SNAP's effectiveness, including [proposals](#) to further undermine access to SNAP for unemployed and underemployed people (which force harsh time limits to assistance), including those with children age 7 and up. We ask you to work to strengthen SNAP and protect the program from cuts or other harmful changes.
- **Medicaid** covers [more than 93 million people](#), providing low-cost, efficient health care to low-income children, adults, people with disabilities, and seniors. Expanded Medicaid coverage has played a key role in reducing the number of people struggling to access health care, while [strengthening the financial health of hospitals in rural communities](#). Some policymakers have proposed to [cut Medicaid by over one-third](#) along with cuts to the Children's Health Insurance Program, taking coverage away from millions of people. Instead of cutting or capping Medicaid or CHIP, we urge Congress to do more to close the Medicaid coverage gap. [\[MD8\]](#) Further, Congress should invest in our communities by expanding the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program, to hire more care workers at better pay to serve more people with disabilities and older adults, more than [600,000](#) of whom languished on waiting lists in 2021.
- **Domestic and international discretionary funding** in the annual appropriations bills support a wide range of important services including housing and home energy assistance for families with low incomes (at a time of soaring rental costs), child care, Head Start and other early childhood development programs, K-12 and higher education, public health investments and veterans medical care, substance use and mental health treatment, food assistance via the WIC program and programs for older Americans, rural development programs, and much more. [Cuts](#) down to FY 2022 levels, targeted solely at domestic and international appropriations, would result in 640,000 families losing access to Housing Choice Vouchers, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; 100,000 children will lose access to child care, 200,000 children will lose access to Head Start, and 1 million older adults will not receive food assistance via Meals on Wheels, as estimated by U.S. Health and Human Services; the Department of Agriculture estimates that WIC would be forced to serve 1.5 million fewer women, infants, and children than the number of participants now projected for FY 2024. The Department of Labor projects 870,000 job training, apprenticeships, senior community service and other employment services would be eliminated. The proposed cuts would not only create additional hardships for many families, they also could create additional worker shortages, from terminated positions, discontinued training, or lack of the

child care needed so parents can work. Some proposals would do even more damage, by caps on domestic and international appropriations that would shrink services year after year. After Congress imposed caps starting in FY 2011, we failed to keep pace with needs in education, public health, housing, infrastructure, and other priorities. We need to catch up, not fall farther behind.

**We also underscore that a responsible approach to the federal budget requires you to support a clean increase in or suspension of the debt ceiling.** Members of Congress must not threaten default. A group of over [200 economists](#), some conservative, some liberal, and including several Nobel laureates, warned in a letter to Congressional leaders of a potential “swift and severe economic downturn” along with highly likely “chaos in world financial markets.” Congress can debate future spending; it must not threaten default on spending it has already enacted.

The decisions you make around investments to keep pace with need, adequate and fair revenues, and protections against dangerous cuts and default will have profound consequences for every American. We urge you to choose responsibility over recklessness, to ensure shared prosperity and to prevent self-inflicted wounds to our economy.

Sincerely,

Accord  
Advance CTE  
Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Alaska Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Association  
Albuquerque RESULTS  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Indian Mothers Inc  
American Muslim Health Professionals  
Arizona Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families  
Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)  
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)  
Autism Society of America  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
Bay Area Professional Family Child Care Network  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Bergen County Green Party  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
BWICA Educational Fund, Inc.  
California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Caring Across Generations  
Center for Disability Rights

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Chapel of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Campus Ministry  
Children's Defense Fund  
Church of St Francis Xavier  
Church Women United in New York State  
Church World Service  
Citizen Action of New York  
Citizen Action of Wisconsin  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
Common Threads  
Community Access National Network  
Community Action Agency of New Haven  
Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County  
Community Servings  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
COVID Survivors for Change  
Crossroads UrbanCenter  
CT Alliance for Retired Americans  
DC Action  
DC Metro Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Delaware Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Des Moines Area Religious Council  
Desire Community Housing Corp.  
Detroit Champions For Hope  
Disability Law Colorado  
Disability Rights Arkansas  
Disability Rights Center - NH  
Disability Rights Michigan  
Disability Rights New Jersey  
Disability Rights North Carolina  
Disability Rights South Carolina  
Disability Rights TN  
Early Learning Essentials  
East Bay Housing Organizations  
Economic Policy Institute  
Education Reform Now  
Empower Missouri  
End Hunger Connecticut!  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Disability Law Center  
Family Centered Treatment Foundation  
Family Values @ Work  
Feeding New York State  
Feeding South Dakota

Feeding Texas  
First Focus on Children  
Florida Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Food for People  
Food Helpers  
Food Helpers/dba Gr. Washington County Food Bank  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Full Plates Full Potential  
Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Georgians for a Healthy Future  
Global Empowerment  
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger  
Groundwork Collaborative  
Guam Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Hawaii Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!  
Health Care Voices  
Healthcare Alternative Systems Inc (HAS)  
Healthy Teen Network  
HOUSING COALITION EDUCATION  
Housing Opportunities of Fort Worth, Inc.  
Hunger Free America  
Hunger Free Colorado  
Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
Hunger-Free PA  
Idaho Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force  
Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Illinois Hunger Coalition  
Impact Fund  
Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Indivisible Marin  
Indy Hunger Network  
Information, Referral & Assistance  
Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Iowa Hunger Coalition  
Islamic Relief USA  
Island Harvest Food Bank  
Jefferson County Farmers Market  
Jewish Family Service of Colorado  
Johnson Park Center (JPC)  
Just Future Project  
Just Harvest  
Justice in Aging  
Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Knowledgepanel  
Lafayette Urban Ministry

Learning Disabilities Association of Delaware  
Lifting Up Westchester, Inc.  
Little Listeners of the Carolinas  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank  
Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Lower Columbia CAP  
Madison-area Urban Ministry d/b/a/ JustDane  
Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Maine People's Alliance  
Mary House PA  
Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Maryland Hunger Solutions  
Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants  
Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Meals on Wheels America  
Meals on Wheels California  
Meals on Wheels Diablo Region  
Meals on Wheels OC  
Meals on Wheels Texas  
Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota  
MEO  
Mercer County Senior Citizen Center  
Methodist Action Program  
Metro New York Health Care for All  
Metropolitan Tenants Organization  
Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Mid-Ohio Food Collective  
Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Mississippi Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Missouri Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
MomsRising  
Montana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Partnership (National PLACE)  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Community Action Partnership  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Jewish Women/ Cleveland  
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)  
National Employment Law Project  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council

National Health Law Program  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Juvenile Justice Network  
National Organization for Women  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
National Respite Coalition  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Law Center  
Nebraska Appleseed  
Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Neighbor to family  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Nevada NOW  
New Hampshire Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
New Jersey Association on Correction  
New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
New Mexico Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
New York State Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
NH Hunger Solutions  
North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project  
Northwest Harvest  
Occupy Bergen County  
Office of the Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie  
Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
Oregon Food Bank  
Our Children Oregon  
Our Revolution  
Our Spring Lake Store, LLC  
Pack Away Hunger  
Partners for Our Children  
Partnership for America's Children  
Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers  
People's Action  
Positive Vibes Plant Lounge LLC  
Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies  
Project Bread  
Project FEED  
Protect All Children's Environment  
Public Advocacy for Kids  
Public Health Solutions  
Public Justice Center  
Puerto Rico Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Reaching Out Community Services

RESULTS

RESULTS, Bremerton, WA group

Rhode Island Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Rise and Resist healthcare Action Group

RocACTS Religious Leaders caucus

Sanctuary of Hope LA

Sisters of St. Joseph Healthcare Foundation

Society of General Internal Medicine

Sojourners

South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

South Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

Spectrum Health Care

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc.

St. Mary Magdalene Social Justice and Peace Committee

Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

The Affordable Homes Group

The AIDS Institute

The Center for Youth and Family Solutions

The Invisible Americans Podcast

The Madison County Racial Justice Coalition

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

Treatment Action Group

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hidalgo County Texas

United Way of King County

Utah Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

VA Hunger Solutions a project of Virginia Poverty Law Center

Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Virgin Islands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Voices of Hope, Inc.

Wake Up World

Washington Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition

Washington Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Washington State Parent Ambassadors

West Chester Food Cupboard

West Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

Westchester County Continuum of Care Partnership To End Homelessness

Windham Area Interfaith Ministry

Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Witnesses to Hunger New Haven

Worcester County Food Bank

Wyoming Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Yoga For Peace, Justice, Harmony With the Planet

York County Food Bank



## Young Invincibles

*(List in formation, will be growing and updated regularly)*