



STOP BILLIONAIRE TAX BREAKS, PROTECT RETIREES AND **SAVE PUBLIC SERVICES**

AFSCME FEDERAL BUDGET TALKING POINTS

Billionaires and anti-union extremists are advancing devastating budget cuts straight out of Project 2025. These reckless cuts will harm working families and retirees, damage our communities, and threaten public service jobs – all so billionaires can enjoy trillions of dollars in tax cuts.

Public service workers – from nurses to child care providers to corrections officers – have dedicated their careers to making our communities stronger, safer and healthier. Cutting federal funding for public services will threaten the work they do and their livelihoods.

BUDGET CUTS WILL HURT EVERYONE, BUT ESPECIALLY THOSE MOST VULNERABLE :

- Seniors, people with disabilities and working people who rely on Medicaid for lifesaving care .
- Retirees who depend on Medicaid and Medicare to make ends meet.
- Children and families who will go hungry due to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cuts.
- Children whose development will be stunted by cuts to Head Start.
- Mothers, newborns and children who receive health care through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

THE PUBLIC OVERWHELMINGLY OPPOSES CUTS TO THESE IMPORTANT PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTS MAKING THE WEALTHY PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE IN TAXES.

- 90% want to increase funding for Medicare or keep it the same.
- 87% want to increase funding for Medicaid or keep it the same.
- 81% want to increase funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or keep it the same.
- Meanwhile, over 60% of all voters oppose tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy (Data for Progress).
- 70% of working-class voters think that the wealthy pay too little in federal taxes already (Families Over Billionaires).
- Americans don't want to see their benefits and public services cut for the sake of billionaire tax breaks. This budget goes against everything they stand for.



CUTTING MEDICAID WILL FORCE CUTS TO OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES AND HURT OUR ECONOMY.

- Medicaid is the single largest source of funding that states receive from the federal government, accounting for 56% of total federal funding to states.
- Federal Medicaid funding helps keep the doors open at hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and veterans' homes. If Medicaid is cut, states will have to slash public services and jobs.
- Medicaid helps drive economic growth. For every federal dollar spent on Medicaid, a state sees roughly \$1.50 in economic impact (Federal Reserve).

FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS MEAN CUTS FOR STATES, CITIES, TOWNS AND SCHOOLS.

- 33% of all states' budgets are supported by federal funding, and some states receive as much as 50% of their budget from the federal government.
- 13% of education funding for states comes directly from the federal government (National Association of State Budget Officers).
- States, cities and towns will be forced to make tough choices about what needs to be funded. That means all public services and public service jobs are on the line – transportation, education, health care, sanitation, environmental protection, social services, child care, home care and beyond.

STRONG PUBLIC SERVICES ARE THE BACKBONE OF A STRONG ECONOMY.

- Access to quality, affordable child care expands the workforce and gives parents the opportunity to pursue jobs that can support their families.
- Programs like Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit entire communities. Each dollar in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program generates \$1.79 in economic activity helping local retailers, farmers and more (Food Research & Action Center).
- Head Start, K-12 schools, Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program are investments in our economic future. They ensure today's children have the education and opportunity to get ahead as adults.
- Public transportation funding supports the infrastructure necessary in getting people to work, and in bringing essential goods and services to our communities.
- Public services are especially important in rural areas and communities that the private sector tends to ignore. Public service jobs in schools, hospitals and the post office both help communities and provide good jobs with fair wages and benefits.

CUTS TO PUBLIC SERVICES WILL HURT WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR WHO ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY EMPLOYED IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS.

- Women make up the majority of workers employed in state and local government.
- Black workers make up 14.5% of the state and local government workforce compared to 11.7% in the private sector (Economic Policy Institute).
- Nearly 1 million veterans are employed in state and local government (Bureau of Labor Statistics).