



Thursday, April 6, 2017

Dear CEF Members:

I. Advocacy

- **CEF letter supporting higher funding for 2018 Labor-HHS-Education bill** – CEF, in conjunction with the Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce and the Coalition for Health Funding, is circulating the attached sign-on [letter](#) urging Congressional appropriators to increase the spending allocation for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018. As you know, we continue to push for raising the cap on non-defense discretionary spending from the austere sequester level to allow more funding for a variety of non-defense needs. The Labor-HHS-ED bill did not receive a proportional share of the extra funding when the caps were last raised two years ago. We encourage all CEF members and their affiliates to sign the letter. To sign, [**CLICK HERE BY COB APRIL 21, 2017.**](#)

II. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Appropriations status** – It sounds like appropriators are still working hard on an omnibus package of separate appropriations bills, and that conferencing on the Labor-HHS-Education bill is close to being done. Multiple people on the Hill have told us that the overall 2017 non-defense funding cap remains at the statutory level – i.e., it has not been lowered per the Trump Administration's proposal – and that the allocation for Labor-HHS-Education has not been significantly changed. As you know, education funding in the 2017 funding bills reported by both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees last year was [cut below the 2016 level](#). It's possible that total Education Department funding could remain about the same in each proposal but with changes in what is provided for individual programs. (For example, to accommodate the House bill's higher funding for ESSA Title IV-A and the Senate bill's higher funding for the National Institutes of Health, Congress could rescind additional funding from the Pell grant reserve.) We don't expect any big announcements during the upcoming two-week recess.
- **"Big Tent" education meeting** – The National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the Center for American Progress, and Democrats for Education Reform have created an informal "Big Tent" education group that occasionally meets to coordinate efforts and share information. Earlier this year it was working against Betsy DeVos's nomination to be Education Secretary, and met

this week to discuss advocacy to enact 2017 bills without damaging policy riders (including the Clean Budget Toolkit mentioned below). CEF will participate on education funding issues, such as a proposal to organize a day to urge the public to call Congress opposing education cuts, possibly linked to when Secretary DeVos testifies before the Appropriations Committee.

- **Labor-HHS-ED hearing on job training** - On April 4, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education held a hearing entitled “Examining Federal Support for Job Training Programs.” Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) pointed out that while the federal government invests over \$4 billion in multiple job training programs, millions of Americans still struggle to find jobs even though there are over 5.5 million job openings across the country. He was interested in the Markle Foundation’s initiative – called SKILLFUL – that provides tools “to connect middle-skill job seekers--those with a high school diploma and some college experience, but not a four-year degree—with employers, educators and community coaches so they can advance their careers.” Representatives Andy Harris (R-MD) and Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN) recognized the importance of workforce education and training in closing the skills gap, without supporting specific programs. Witnesses called for appropriate funding of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to achieve better participant outcomes and program performance, and described the challenges facing WIOA.
- **Student Aid Alliance letter garners 576 signatures** – This week 576 organizations and institutions sent a [letter](#) urging Congress to strengthen the Pell grant program and protect the student loan program. They are encouraging advocates to share the letter with their networks and to tweet about it using the hashtags #savestudentaid and #raidonaid.
- **FYI, Clean Budget Toolkit** – Public Citizen’s [Clean Budget Coalition](#) has put together the attached budget “toolkit” with information about reaching out to Members of Congress in the coming two-week recess. It includes talking points and questions about education funding and the President’s proposed cuts, among many other points.

III. Events

- **CEF schedule for April** – There are no Friday morning meetings during Congress’s two-week recess this month.
 - **Friday, April 7, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AFSCME, 1625 L St NW, 1st Floor Board Room). Guest speaker: Robin Juliano, Democratic education staffer for the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee.
 - **Friday, April 28, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW). Guest speaker: TBD.

My best,

Sheryl

Sheryl V. Cohen, Executive Director



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COALITION for HEALTH FUNDING



May XX, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The more than XXX undersigned* organizations—representing the full range of stakeholders supporting the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill (Labor-HHS)—urge you to increase the fiscal year (FY) 2018 302(b) subcommittee allocation for these programs and services. The activities administered by the departments and agencies under Labor-HHS's jurisdiction serve a broad range of constituencies and needs, but they all share a common, fundamental goal of strengthening this nation by improving Americans' lives. The federal government must invest sufficient funding to meet that goal.

Despite Labor-HHS's profound impact on health and well-being, child development, educational and skills attainment, and productivity, its programs and services continue to be short-changed in the annual appropriations process. For example, with the much-needed sequestration relief provided through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 provided nondefense discretionary programs with a 6.9 percent increase overall, but programs in the Labor-HHS bill only received a 3.3 percent increase over 2015 levels. As a result, funding for Americans' health, education, workforce, and social services programs—representing more than half of all nondefense discretionary spending—rose less than half as much as the nondefense average. Today, funding for Labor-HHS programs is almost 12 percent below FY 2010 levels, adjusted for inflation. Under President Trump's budget request, the Labor-HHS allocation would be roughly 15.5 percent lower than current levels, and more than 25 percent below FY 2010 in inflation adjusted terms.

Continuing to underfund these programs and agencies is irresponsible and unsustainable. The effects of short changing the Labor-HHS allocation are:

- Slowing scientific discovery in basic, biomedical, and health services research that prevents disease, improves health, and curbs medical costs;
- Eroding the public health infrastructure and workforce, limiting our ability to respond to public health crises and monitor health trends for new and emerging threats;
- Hindering efforts to close troubling achievement gaps, raise overall student achievement, and increase high school graduation, college access, and college completion rates;
- Leaving far too many low-income children without access to high quality preschool and other early learning opportunities;
- Hindering efforts of local employers to fill approximately five million job openings in the U.S. because too many workers lack the necessary postsecondary education and credentials required for these positions;

- Preventing millions of workers from accessing the critical workforce and job training services that Congress overwhelmingly authorized in 2014; and
- Ignoring the needs of individuals without a high school credential and who need a pathway back to education and employment.

Without an increase in the Labor-HHS 302(b) allocation, it will be impossible to meaningfully increase investments in important initiatives—such as expanding medical research at the National Institutes of Health, implementing the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act, or achieving the goals contained in the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act —without deep cuts in other equally important initiatives.

We urge you to commit to improving the lives of Americans by increasing the Labor-HHS appropriations allocation for FY 2018. More broadly, we remain eager to work with you to help produce another bipartisan budget agreement to stop sequestration and raise the caps for these and other nondefense discretionary programs.

We appreciate your consideration of this recommendation. If you have questions about this letter, please contact:

Emily Holubowich, Coalition for Health Funding (202-484-1100 or eholubowich@dc-crd.com)
Sheryl Cohen, Committee for Education Funding (202-327-8125 or cohen@cef.org)
Kermit Kaleba, Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce (202-223-8991 or
kermitk@nationalskillscoalition.org)

*A full list of signatures may be found at XXXXX.

Cc: Members, House and Senate Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, Committees on Appropriations

NO RIDERS, NO CUTS

A Toolkit for Activists Fighting for a Clean Budget with No Harmful Riders



Congress should pass a *clean budget that funds and protects our families and communities and that has no harmful riders.*

Prepared by the Clean Budget Coalition
Contact: David Rosen, [\(drosen@citizen.org\)](mailto:drosen@citizen.org), (202) 588-7742

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Background

How Public Services and Safeguards Are Funded

Every year, Congress must pass a series of appropriations bills to fund the services and safeguards that protect American families and communities. In addition to passing a budget for fiscal year 2018, Congress and the White House also must ensure funding for the rest of fiscal year 2017. That's because the last Congress failed to pass a budget through regular order. Instead, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) extending 2016 funding levels through midnight on April 28, 2017. If lawmakers fail to act before then – either by passing another short-term CR or a full budget – our government will shut down until funding is restored.

On March 16, President Donald Trump released a “skinny budget,” previewing his administration’s budget proposal for fiscal year 2018. As this proposal made abundantly clear, the Republican budget will be rigged to benefit billionaires and big corporations at the expense of American workers, consumers and families.

The Danger From Policy Riders

It’s bad enough that Republicans are proposing deep and painful funding cuts to the agencies that protect our health and safety, our workplaces and wallets, as well as our environment and economy. But they’re also threatening to attach to this must-pass budget legislation hundreds of harmful policy riders that would repeal essential public protections. These ideological riders could do lasting damage to our system of public safeguards, which is designed to prevent tragedies that would spell disaster for individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Most of these riders are little more than sweetheart deals for billionaire and big corporations. Some of them are special favors for ideological extremists. These measures have nothing to do with funding our government, and most of them could not become law on their own merits – even with Republicans controlling all three branches of government. Specifically, they would roll back Wall Street reforms, gut clean air and clean water protections, attack women’s health care and fundamental civil rights, and more — all in order to pay for huge corporate giveaways and handouts for their biggest donors.

Our Message to Congress and How You Can Help

The Clean Budget Coalition is calling on Congress and the White House to pass a clean budget that funds and protects our families and communities and that contains no harmful riders before the government shuts down. Members of Congress need to do their jobs and stop playing games with the appropriations process.

The resources in this toolkit will help you amplify this message in your community. Please contact your members of Congress, ask about these issues at town halls, write letters to the editor in your local newspaper and tell others about the dangers posed by riders on social media. Thank you for your activism and support!

List of Appropriators

These members of Congress serve on the Senate and House appropriations committees and subcommittees, which are in charge of the federal funding process. Accordingly, they are top targets for public pressure related to federal funding issues and inappropriate policy riders. Arizona, Colorado, South Dakota and Wyoming do not have any members of Congress on the appropriations committees and subcommittees.

Alabama: Sen. Richard Shelby, Rep. Robert Aderholt, Rep. Martha Roby

Alaska: Sen. Lisa Murkowski

Arkansas: Sen. John Boozman, Rep. Steve Womack

California: Sen. Diane Feinstein, Rep. Ken Calvert, Rep. David Valadao, Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Pete Aguilar

Connecticut: Sen. Chris Murphy, Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Delaware: Sen. Chris Coons

Florida: Sen. Marco Rubio, Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, Rep. Tomas Rooney, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Georgia: Rep. Tom Graves, Rep. Sanford Bishop

Hawaii: Sen. Brian Schatz

Idaho: Rep. Michael Simpson

Illinois: Sen. Richard Durbin, Rep. Mike Quigley

Indiana: Rep. Peter Visclosky

Iowa: Rep. David Young

Kansas: Sen. Jerry Moran, Rep. Kevin Yoder

Kentucky: Sen. Mitch McConnell, Rep. Harold Rogers

Louisiana: Sen. John Kennedy

Maine: Sen. Susan Collins, Rep. Chellie Pingree,

Maryland: Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Rep. Andy Harris, Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Massachusetts: Rep. Katherine Clark

Michigan: Rep. John Moolenaar

Minnesota: Rep. Betty McCollum

Mississippi: Sen. Thad Cochran, Rep. Steven Palazzo

Missouri: Sen. Roy Blunt

Montana: Sen. Steve Daines, Sen. Jon Tester

Nebraska: Rep. Jeff Fortenberry

Nevada: Rep. Mark Amodei

New Hampshire: Sen. Jeanne Shaheen

New Jersey: Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen

New Mexico: Sen. Tom Udall

New York: Rep. Nita Lowey, Rep. José Serrano, Rep. Grace Meng

North Carolina: Rep. David Price

North Dakota: Sen. John Hoeven

Ohio: Rep. David Joyce, Rep. Marcy Kaptur, Rep. Tim Ryan

Oklahoma: Sen. James Lankford, Rep. Tom Cole

Oregon: Sen. Jeff Merkley

Pennsylvania: Rep. Charles Dent, Rep. Matt Cartwright

Rhode Island: Sen. Jack Reed

South Carolina: Sen. Lindsay Graham

Tennessee: Sen. Lamar Alexander, Rep. Charles Fleischmann

Texas: Rep. Kay Granger, Rep. John Culberson, Rep. John Carter, Rep. Henry Cuellar

Utah: Rep. Chris Stewart

Vermont: Sen. Patrick Leahy

Virginia: Rep. Scott Taylor

Washington: Sen. Patty Murray, Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, Rep. Dan Newhouse, Rep. Derek Kilmer

West Virginia: Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, Sen. Joe Manchin, Rep. Evan Jenkins

Wisconsin: Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Rep. Mark Pocan

Talking Points

Funding our government is not optional – it's a requirement of serving in Congress. But instead of doing their jobs, lawmakers are threatening to inject unrelated and controversial issues into the process. Special favors for special interests have no place in the budget.

We deserve an open and honest debate about funding levels. Instead, conservatives in Congress are trying to turn the budget process into a bonanza for corporate lobbyists and right wing ideologues. They keep promising “regular order” but can’t keep their own house in order.

Trump’s budget proposals and ideas for both 2017 and 2018 are rigged for billionaires and CEOs. They make deep and painful cuts to the programs and protections that allow American families and communities to thrive – while showering big banks, big polluters and corporate predators with special favors.

Poison pill policy riders don’t belong in any budget. Rolling back Wall Street reforms, blocking clean air and water protections, and attacking women’s health care have nothing to do with funding our government. These measures could not become law on their own merits – even with Republicans controlling Congress and the White House. That’s why some lawmakers are trying to attach them to must-pass budget legislation like appropriations bills as riders.

Americans have a right to expect a clean budget with no harmful riders. Members of Congress need to stop playing partisan political games with the budget. Congress needs to pass a clean budget with no harmful riders that funds and protects our families and communities.

Questions for Lawmakers

The Trump-Republican budget will be rigged to benefit billionaires and big corporations at the expense of American workers, consumers and families. See below for suggested related questions to ask your lawmakers in your town halls and, remember, your lawmaker works for you!

Please visit [TownHallProject.com](#) to find out about upcoming town halls in your area. Visit [ResistanceNearMe.com](#), an organizing hub for local #resist actions, to help you find any public event, rally, town hall or protest, in your state, as well as how to contact your members of Congress. And visit [ResistanceRecess.com](#), MoveOn's database of resistance events.

DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKER QUESTIONS

General Budget. With all the dysfunction in Congress, should lawmakers use the tools that fund our government as a vehicle for their own ideological pet projects?

Transportation. Right now, the Transportation Department has just two dozen investigators who are charged with investigating and spotting safety defects in the more than 250 million cars on the road. Yet, the Trump budget would slash the Department's funding. What will you do to ensure that these inspectors can carry on with their important work in protecting my family from companies like GM and Takata that hide the harm of their deadly products from the public?

Housing. It's getting harder and harder for many low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities to afford their rent each month. Many are spending more than half of their income just on rent —with very little left over for food, doctor's visits and childcare, let alone saving for a rainy day or for college. Only 1 in 4 people who need housing assistance actually get this help, what will you do to help people keep a roof over their heads?

The truth is that we cannot afford any more cuts to HUD programs that help keep roofs over the heads of poor seniors, people with disabilities, and children. Many have said that President Trump's budget is dead-on-arrival. But it is not enough to oppose Trump's budget. HUD's budget has already been cut to the bone. The only way to solve this problem is to lift the spending caps that make it impossible to address the housing crisis in this country. Will you commit to this?

Environment. EPA's budget today is already 20 percent lower than it was back in 2010. The Trump administration's proposed budget would cut EPA funding by 31 percent, leaving critical programs unfunded and putting my family's health and our environment at risk. What will you do to ensure that EPA is fully funded at current budget levels?

Climate change is a threat to Americans' health, local economies, and our communities. Trump's budget chief, Mick Mulvaney, called climate change funding "a waste of money" and proposes eliminating dozens of critical programs to fight climate change. What will you do to ensure this critical funding is not eliminated?

We have a right to clean air, safe drinking water and communities that are free of toxic pollution. The Trump Administration's proposal to drastically cut the EPA's budget takes the cop off the beat and lets polluters do what they want. Will you commit to vote against any spending measures that gut the EPA?

We have a moral obligation to protect our families and future generations from climate change, which threatens our Americans' health, local economies, and our communities. But the Trump

administration calls efforts to reduce carbon pollution “a waste of money” and has proposed eliminating dozens of critical programs to fight climate change. What will you do to ensure this critical funding is not eliminated?

Worker Health & Safety. With the Republican Congress and President Trump repealing basic workplace safety protections, now more than ever working people will be relying on OSHA to protect workers. What will you do to help provide OSHA with enough funding to keep our workplaces safe?

Education. Federal K-12 education funding is still below the 2008 level even though public school enrollment has increased by 2.3 percent over those ten years. At the same time, 23 states are on track to provide less formula funding in 2017 than they did ten years ago, cutting the largest source of support for elementary and secondary education. What will you do to ensure that critical funding for class size or teacher professional development is not eliminated?

College affordability is a serious concern for millions of students and families across our country – and impacts our economy as a whole. How will you ensure that federal student aid grants are not eliminated as proposed in the Trump?

During her confirmation hearing Secretary DeVos refused to say if private schools taking federal funding should have to provide students with disabilities the rights and services they get at public schools and the Trump budget proposes to cut education programs by \$9 billion, partially so they can shift funding to private schools. How will you fight against the budget’s attempt to underfund and undermine our public schools?

Public Health. In a major bipartisan push, Congress passed the cancer moonshot to find a cure and better treatments for cancer patients but the Trump budget calls for cuts to the National Institutes for Health and the Centers for Diseases Control. What will you do to help ensure these vital agencies get the funding they need to continue their groundbreaking medical research?

Food Safety. The Trump Administration has proposed cutting food safety programs that would make our food less safe. Forty-eight million Americans get sick every year from foodborne illness and 3,000 die. Foodborne illness strikes hardest at our most vulnerable citizens, the elderly and children. When it comes to foodborne pathogens, no individual can see the risk, since the contamination is microscopic. Will you commit to vigorously resisting budget cuts to FDA’s food safety programs that put Americans’ health at risk?

Women’s Health. The Republican Congress and President Trump have already attacked domestic and international reproductive-health programs and providers. What will you do to protect funding for domestic and international family planning programs?

The Republican Congress and President Trump have repeatedly tried to defund Planned Parenthood and other reproductive-health providers. What will you do to protect women's access to reproductive-health providers?

In past years, Congressional Republicans have attempted to bog down spending bills by adding restrictions on access to and coverage for certain reproductive health services, including abortion care. How will you push back against such efforts this year?

REPUBLICAN LAWMAKER QUESTIONS

General Budget. With all the dysfunction in Congress, should lawmakers use the tool that funds our government as a vehicle for their own ideological pet projects?

Transportation. Right now, the Transportation Department has just two dozen investigators who are charged with investigating and spotting safety defects in the more than 250 million cars on the road. Yet, the Trump budget would slash the Department's funding. Do you really think there should be *fewer*, instead of *more*, cops on the beat when it comes to finding out about companies like GM and Takata that hide the harm of their deadly products from the public?

Housing. It's getting harder and harder for many low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities to afford their rent each month. Only 1 in 4 people who need housing assistance actually get the help they need, and President Trump's budget would make this even worse by cutting programs that keep roofs over their heads. Where will these families go if they are evicted from their homes or have to live out of their cars?

President Trump ran his campaign, promising to rebuild our communities. But his budget proposes to eliminate resources that our state uses to revitalize distressed areas, build senior centers and health clinics, help families get out of shelters and into homes, and help low income families become homeowners. His budget would hurt our communities, not help us. Do you think President Trump has broken his promise?

Environment. The Environmental Protection Agency protects human health from air and water pollution by enforcing rules that apply to some of the most sophisticated companies on the planet. How can they enforce the rules with massive budget cuts that prevent them from retaining the expertise needed to enforce the rules for highly complex industries?

How will these budget cuts allow EPA to retain the automotive engineers needed to prevent the next Volkswagen scandal or other lawbreaking companies who attempt to cheat the system and harm our health? And how is lowering the risks for bad companies to cheat fair to good companies that follow the rules?

EPA's budget today is already 20 percent lower than it was back in 2010. The Trump administration's proposed budget would cut EPA funding by 31 percent, leaving critical programs unfunded and putting my family's health and our environment at risk. Do you support these cuts? If so, why are you in favor of a direct assault on the health of my family?

Climate change is a threat to Americans' health, local economies and our communities. Trump's budget chief, Mick Mulvaney, called climate change funding "a waste of money" and proposes eliminating dozens of critical programs to fight climate change. Even Secretary of Defense

Mattis recognizes that climate change is a threat to national security. Do you disagree with the Secretary of Defense? Do you support budget cuts that will make Americans less safe?

We have a right to clean air, safe drinking water and communities that are free of toxic pollution. The Trump Administration's proposal to drastically cut the EPA's budget takes the cop off the beat and lets polluters do what they want. Will you commit to vote against any spending measures that gut the EPA?

Worker Health & Safety. How can OSHA keep American workplaces safe if the agency only has enough funding and staff to inspect worksites under its jurisdiction once every 145 years?

How can working people protect themselves from hazards on the job if Congress approves President Trump's proposal to eliminate job training programs that provide vital education for workers in high-hazard industries?

The Trump budget looks to cut the U.S. Chemical Safety Board. How will the government protect workers and communities from an incident similar to the BP Deepwater Horizon blowout or the West, Texas fertilizer plant explosion?

Education. The budget calls for cutting education programs by \$9 billion, and cuts existing programs even further to promote private school vouchers. Secretary DeVos doesn't think that private schools taking federal funding should have to provide students with disabilities the rights and services they get under at public schools – do you?

Do you support programs that keep students off the street after school? Do you support teachers having support to better teach students? Do you support having class sizes that are manageable enough to effectively teach students? Do you support helping students be able to afford to attend college without the need to graduate with crushing debt?

Millions of Americans are out of work while some businesses struggle to find qualified candidates. How can you justify cutting funding for education and workforce training in our communities which not only help get people back to work but help grow the economy?

Public Health. In a major bipartisan push, Congress passed the cancer moonshot to find a cure and better treatments for cancer patients but the Trump budget calls for cuts to the National Institutes for Health and the Centers for Diseases Control. How will we find a cure for cancer or better treatments if the medical research budgets get slashed?

Food Safety. The Trump Administration has proposed cutting food safety programs that would make our food less safe. Forty-eight million Americans get sick every year from foodborne illness and 3,000 die. Foodborne illness strikes hardest at our most vulnerable citizens, the elderly and children. When it comes to foodborne pathogens, no individual can see the risk, since the contamination is microscopic. How will the government protect us from unsafe food if those programs are cut?

Women's Health. Every dollar spent on publicly funded family planning services saves over \$7 in federal spending, resulting in net annual savings of more than \$13 billion. Given this excellent return on investment, shouldn't we be increasing funding federal for family planning programs and expanding access to care?

Immigration. The President has proposed building a wall on the southern border while our bridges and roads crumble, our schools struggle to find resources, and our communities sacrifice public health initiatives and professionals to meet shrinking budgets. Do you think a wall is more important than keeping us secure where we live?

Domestic vs. Military Spending. As a constituent, I am worried about our safety from foreign threats but am more concerned about security from the threats closer to home. I worry about such epidemics as Zika and opioid abuse, and also about the ability of local and federal law enforcement to prevent and respond to emergencies in our communities. Can you ensure that safety in my community will not be compromised if you cut the domestic budget to increase military spending?

For years, our communities have put seniors and children on waitlists for Meals on Wheels and Head Start, lost access to job training and preventive services like vaccines, struggled to maintain our roads and to provide housing and food to our neighbors who have fallen on tough times. How will you reinvest in our communities and the services we rely on if you cut the domestic budget to pay for large spending increases at the Pentagon?

While the President has focused on the "hard" power of the military, the US has always used "soft" power to build support around the globe, further reducing threats. With the proposed cuts to the nondefense budget and the Department of State, can you ensure that we will be able to maintain the same position on the world stage and continue to work with our partners to combat security threats?

Call Script

Please call your representative and senators. When you call, be polite but firm. Make sure to say that you are from your member's district or home state.

Hi, my name is _____ and I'm calling from (City, State). I'd like to leave a message for Senator/Representative _____.

I'm calling to express my concern about the hundreds of harmful policy riders that could be attached to appropriations legislation. These measures are just special favors for ideological extremists and big corporations, and they have no business being part of legislation that is supposed to fund our government.

Please keep the inappropriate riders out of the appropriations bills, and pass a budget that protects our families and communities in time to keep the government open. Thank you.

Letters to Lawmakers

Please use these model letters when writing or emailing your representatives in Congress. Conservative lawmakers in the House and Senate majority are behind most of the poison pill policy riders. Most lawmakers in the minority are trying to remove them.

Letter or Email Calling Out a Lawmaker

Dear (Representative/Senator),

I'm writing to urge you to not include special interest riders in to this year's budget legislation. The appropriations process is supposed to be about funding our government – not sneaking through special favors for big business and ideological extremists. Whether or not you agree with these measures, provisions that roll back Wall Street reform, block clean air and water protections, and undermine women's health do not belong in government funding bills.

Americans deserve a clean and transparent process for funding our government. Please do your job, keep the harmful riders out of the process, and fund the programs and protections that keep our community safe and prosperous.

Sincerely,
(Your Name, City, State)

Letter or Email Thanking a Lawmaker

Dear (Representative/Senator),

Thank you for standing strong against dangerous policy riders that could be attached to this year's appropriations legislation. These measures have nothing to do with funding our government, would harm our families and communities, and have no place in the process.

We deserve an open and honest debate about funding levels. Instead, conservatives in Congress are threatening to turn the appropriations process into a bonanza for corporate lobbyists and right wing ideologues. They keep promising "regular order" but can't keep their own house in order.

Americans deserve a clean and transparent process for allocating federal funding that doesn't include controversial and unpopular measures that would harm workers, consumers, families and our environment. Please continue to speak out against inappropriate riders. We have your back!

Sincerely,
(Your Name, City, State)

Letters to the Editor

No room for dirty business in a clean budget bill

With funding running out on April 28, it's time for lawmakers to get serious about the federal budget. But instead of doing their jobs, conservative lawmakers are threatening to stuff the appropriations bills full of special favors for big businesses and ideological extremists.

Rolling back Wall Street reform, blocking clean air and clean water protections, and attacking women's health care have nothing to do with funding our government – and they'll harm our families and communities. What's more, these measures couldn't pass on their own merits, even with Republicans in control of Congress and the White House. So instead, lawmakers want to sneak these provisions into must-pass government funding bills as riders – and hope no one will notice.

We deserve an open and transparent appropriations process, not a bonanza for corporate lobbyists and ideological extremists. A clean budget means there's no room for dirty business.

(Your Name, City, State)

A budget rigged for billionaires

The Trump-Republican budget is rigged with harmful funding cuts, which harm American families and communities to pay back the GOP's billionaire buddies and corporate cronies. As if that weren't bad enough, Republicans are threatening to include harmful policy riders that reward big banks, big polluters and corporate predators.

Between the funding cuts and corporate-friendly riders, this budget would cut deep into the programs and protections that ensure we all have safe food, clean air and drinking water, secure bank accounts and credit cards. Middle class families, workers and consumers will pay the price if these measures become law. Americans have the right to expect a clean budget that takes care of all of us, not just the billionaires who have President Trump's ear.

(Your Name, City, State)

Sample Tweets

Please use any of the following hashtags in your tweets and social media posts:

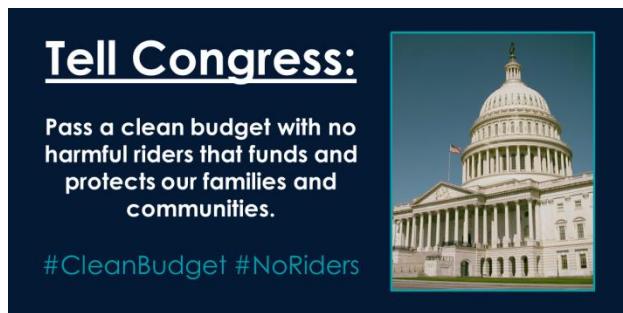
#CleanBudget #NoRiders #RiggedBudget #BillionaireBudget #Congress #Shutdown

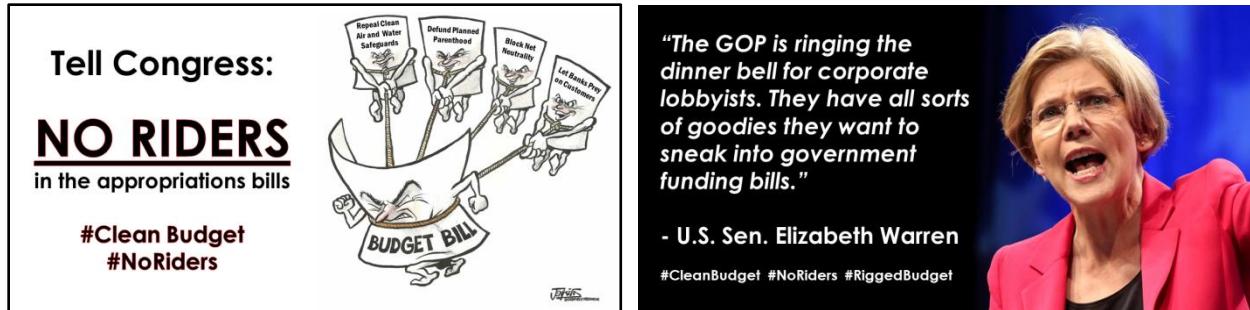
- NO to a #riggedbudget for #billionaires & #CEOs; YES to a #cleanbudget w/ #noriders that funds & protects thriving #families & #communities.
- A #cleanbudget means there's no room for dirty business. #noriders

- Attacks on #consumers, #workers & #families have no place in #appropriations bills! #cleanbudget #noriders
- Tell #Congress to stop hijacking the budget with special favors for big business. #noriders #cleancannotmean #cleanbudget
- Inappropriate riders don't belong in appropriations. #cleanbudget #noriders
- #Congress wants regular order, but can't get its house in order. A #cleanbudget means no dirty business and #noriders.
- Extremists in #Congress want to sneaking harmful policies into spending bills without debate. We need a #cleanbudget with #noriders.
- #Trump's #RiggedBudget would help corporations but harm the #MiddleClass.
- #Trump's #BillionaireBudget is great for #BigOil because it guts programs & protections for #CleanAir & #CleanWater.
- The GOP's #BillionaireBudget cuts programs & protections that safeguard our #environment, #workplaces & #homes.
- #Democrats should not support a #budget that will #shutdown critical public services and protections.

Social Media Graphics

The easiest way to use these images is to copy and paste them onto your desktop and then upload them to a social media platform. You also may use any of the images throughout this document.





Links and Resources

Here are some links and resources to help you learn more about the issues, keep up with the latest news about appropriations riders and get involved.

Clean Budget Coalition Index of Resources:

<http://sensiblesafeguards.org/issues/cleanbudget2018/>

Broken Promises: President Trump's 2018 Budget Request a Betrayal of Pledge to Make America Great Again:

<http://bit.ly/trumpbudget-brokenpromises>

Clean Budget Petition, hosted by Public Citizen:

<http://bit.ly/TrumpBudgetPetition>

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