

Dear Member of Congress:

As organizations advocating on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community, we ask you to oppose the House Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Resolution.

The federal budget impacts everyone in the United States, including LGBTQ people. The budget affects whether individuals have access to affordable health care, whether those in poverty get the assistance they need with housing and food, and whether high quality educational opportunities are available to all. It also affects the pace of scientific discovery, including research on HIV prevention and treatment. The federal budget plays a crucial role in ensuring that all communities across the country can thrive. Unfortunately, the House budget resolution takes the country in the wrong direction.

The House budget would cut \$4.4 trillion over ten years from entitlement programs. Additionally, the resolution cuts \$1.3 trillion over 10 years from nondefense discretionary programs while increasing defense spending by nearly \$1 trillion. In addition to these drastic cuts, the House budget instructs 11 committees to cut at least \$203 billion from programs including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The instructions also provide for tax cuts that are “deficit neutral” rather than “revenue neutral.” This means tax cuts can be paid for with cuts to entitlement programs that help low- and moderate-income people. The resolution also calls for denying the Child Tax Credit (CTC) refund to many immigrant families by requiring a Social Security Number rather than an IRS-issued Individual Tax Identification Number as currently needed to claim the credit.

Cuts to vital entitlement programs and programs for low-income individuals would hurt LGBTQ people and people living with HIV (PLHIV). LGBT people – and in particular, lesbian and bisexual women, people of color, and transgender people – are disproportionately vulnerable to poverty.<sup>1</sup> Currently, more than one in four LGB adults aged 18-44 (27%, or 2.2 million people) participate in SNAP, compared to 20% of non-LGB adults in the same age range.<sup>2</sup> An estimated 1.8 million LGBTQ people<sup>3</sup> are covered by Medicaid, and Medicaid is the biggest source of

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<sup>1</sup> Twenty-one percent of LGBT people living alone have annual incomes of less than \$12,000 compared to sixteen percent of non-LGBT people living alone. M.V. Lee Badgett, Laura Durso, & Alyssa Schneebaum, *New Patterns of Poverty in the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community*, The Williams Inst., 2 (June 2013), <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGB-Poverty-Update-Jun-2013.pdf>. Transgender people are four times more likely than the general population to have a household income of less than \$10,000 per year.

<sup>2</sup> Taylor Brown, Adam Romero, & Gary Gates, *Food Insecurity and SNAP Participation in the LGBT Community*, The Williams Inst., (July 2016), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Food-Insecurity-and-SNAP-Participation-in-the-LGBT-Community.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Kellan Baker & Laura Durso, *Why Repealing the Affordable Care Act Is Bad Medicine for LGBT Communities*, Center for American Progress (March 22, 2017),

health insurance for PLHIV<sup>4</sup>. Cuts to Medicaid would mean LGBTQ people and people living with HIV will go without life-saving healthcare.

Instead of the current budget, Congress should pass a budget resolution that does not require cuts to entitlement programs, gives only revenue-neutral tax instructions, and does not seek to cut funding for vital social safety net programs or deny the CTC refund to many immigrant families.

For questions please contact National Center for Lesbian Rights Policy Counsel Tyrone Hanley at [thanley@nclrights.org](mailto:thanley@nclrights.org), PFLAG National Director of Advocacy, Policy & Partnerships Diego Sanchez at [dsanchez@pflag.org](mailto:dsanchez@pflag.org), or True Colors Fund Director of Public Policy Justin Rush at [justin@truecolorsfund.org](mailto:justin@truecolorsfund.org).

Sincerely,

American Psychological Association  
Center for American Progress  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Equality California  
Family Equality Council  
Family Values @ Work  
Movement Advancement Project  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
NEAT - National Equality Action Team  
People For the American Way  
PFLAG  
Transgender Law Center  
True Colors Fund

CC: Senate Budget Committee Chairman and Ranking Member

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<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2017/03/22/428970/repealing-affordable-care-act-bad-medicine-lgbt-communities/>

<sup>4</sup> The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, *Medicaid and HIV*, <http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/fact-sheet/medicaid-and-hiv/> (October 14, 2016).