

September 5, 2017

Dear New York State Representatives:

We, the undersigned organizations representing faith leaders, service providers, charitable organizations and nonprofit organizations in New York, write to express our strong opposition to the House Fiscal Year 2018 budget resolution passed by the House Budget Committee in July, which lays out a harsh economic vision for this nation. If approved, this resolution would set into motion a plan that would cause pain for millions of families, especially those who have fallen on hard times, while paving the way for massive tax cuts geared toward those who are already the most well off.

As you know, the Fiscal Year 2018 budget resolution passed by the House Budget Committee in July would use reconciliation to force billions of dollars of cuts to programs that help individuals and families in New York, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, and the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits to name just a few. These programs help struggling families afford the basics—food on the table, a roof over their heads, and access to health care. The budget resolution also calls for stunning cuts in a range of basic public services and investments in our nation, such as job training, K-12 education, access to college, scientific research, and housing.

At the same time, the resolution would pave the way for massive tax cuts that will overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest households and profitable corporations. Further, because the resolution includes special instructions to provide for “deficit-neutral” tax reform, Congress could choose to pay for these tax cuts by making even deeper cuts in programs serving low- and middle-income families.

The House Budget Resolution passed by the Budget Committee is bad for New York families and contrary to our values.

We urge you to reject these upside-down budget priorities, and put the needs of all of New York’s families at the top of the agenda. **We call upon you to oppose the House budget resolution passed by the Budget Committee and work instead to craft a budget that:**

- **Does not establish a reconciliation process to cut programs that help struggling families afford the basics;**
- **Does not allow cuts to assistance programs to help offset the cost of tax cuts; and**
- **Requires that tax legislation is *revenue* neutral.**

We also call upon you to work toward a bipartisan agreement to eliminate sequestration cuts in non-defense discretionary spending with equal relief between non-defense and defense priorities. Non-defense discretionary programs support key services in New York from education to job training to economic development to the Community Services Block Grant to important research conducted in our universities and that is key to our nation’s future. Congress on a bipartisan basis has come together in the past to reduce the harmful sequestration cuts. Without action, those temporary fixes will expire and full sequestration cuts will go into effect in 2018, leaving key investments underfunded. At these funding levels, many core public services would be severely impaired or eliminated. Our state budget and local communities in our state would also take a significant hit, as federal grants to states and localities make up nearly one-third of total non-defense discretionary spending.

New York's communities thrive when all families have a home and can put food on their table; when workers, parents, children, seniors, and people with disabilities get the health care they need; when schools are not shortchanged; when workers can get the training they need to succeed in today's economy; and when we invest in all of our neighborhoods. The House budget resolution passed by the Budget Committee falls short on every one of these points.

We urge you to oppose the resolution and instead craft a budget that upholds New York's best values.

Thank you for considering our views.

Abbott House	Families on the Move of New York
Action Together Long Island	Fiscal Policy Institute
Alliance for Quality Education	Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Arbor Housing and Development	Forestdale
Association to Benefit Children	FPWA
Beth-Hark Christian Counseling Center, Inc.	Friendly Hands Ministry, Inc.
Brooklyn Community Services	Goddard Riverside Community Center
Brooklyn Kindergarten Society	Grace Congregational Church
Care for the Homeless	Grand Street Settlement
Casita Maria Inc.	Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Catholic Charities Brooklyn & Queens	Harlem Children's Zone
Catholic Charities Community Services of Orange and Sullivan	Harlem Dowling-West Side Center
Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York	Heights and Hills
Catholic Family Center	HRA
CCNS	Hudson Guild
Center for Children's Initiatives	Human Services Council of New York
Center for Family Representation (CFR)	Hunger Action Network
Center for Independence of the Disabled NY	Hunger Solutions New York
Central New York Citizens in Action	Interagency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies
Child Care Solutions, Inc.	Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
Child Welfare Organizing Project	Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, Inc.
Children's Aid Society	Legal Action Center
Children's Defense Fund - New York	Literacy Assistance Center
Chinese-American Planning Council	Long Island Progressive Coalition
Citizen Action of New York	Lower East Side Family Union
Coalition Asian American Families and Children	Medicare Rights Center
Coalition for the Homeless	MercyFirst
COFCCA	Morningside Retirement and Health Services, Inc.
Community Resource Exchange	Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, Inc
Community Service Society	NAMI Huntington
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation	Nazareth Housing
Day Care Council of New York	New York State Council of Churches
DeWitt Reformed Church	New York State Labor-Religion Coalition
ELCA	NMIC
Faith in New York	

Northern Rivers Family Services
NY Statewide Senior Action Council
NYC Employment and Training Coalition
(NYCETE)
NYS Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health
Partnership with Children
Phipps Neighborhoods
Professional Staff Congress
Queens Community House
Reality House
Resurrection and Life Pentecostal Church
Safe Horizon
SCO Family of Services
Sheltering Arms
Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
St Ann's Church of Morrisania
St. Dominic's Home
Strong Economy for All Coalition
Sunnyside Community Services
The Bridge
The Child Center of NY
The Children's Village

The Door
The Dwelling Place of NY, Inc.
The Family Center
The Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc
The Supportive Housing Network of New York
THRIVE
Tioga Opportunities, Inc.
Trinity Grace Church Washington Heights
United Neighborhood Houses
Unity House of Troy
University Settlement
Urban Pathways
West End Residences HDfC, Inc.
WHEDco
William Hodson Community Center
Womankind
Women's Center for Education and Career
Advancement
Worker Justice Center of New York
YMCA of Greater New York
Yoga for Peace, Justice, and Harmony with the
Planet