

FACT SHEET: The House Republican Budget Would Harm Students, Workers, Our Nation's Health, and the Economy

In 2016, Congressional Republicans are proposing the lowest discretionary funding levels in a decade, adjusted for inflation, and they are committed to locking in hundreds of billions of dollars in cuts to defense and non-defense investments over the next six years.

These funding cuts, known as “sequestration,” were never intended to take effect: instead, they were supposed to threaten such drastic consequences that policymakers would be motivated to come to the table and reduce the deficit through smart, balanced reforms. The President's Budget does just that, reversing sequestration going forward so as to make investments important to families, the economy, and our national security, while replacing the savings with commonsense spending and tax reforms.

Unfortunately, the Republicans have taken a very different approach. They have hijacked the appropriations process to advance partisan, ideologically-motivated policy riders that would undermine financial reform, environmental protection, and basic health and safety protections, and proposed to cut pro-growth investments in areas ranging from research to education to infrastructure, as well as national security priorities from homeland security to peacekeeping to the base defense budget.

Below are some examples of how critical programs would be impacted under House Republican appropriations bills and funding targets compared to the President's Budget:

Education and Training

- ❖ **Head Start** (*Labor-Health and Human Services-Education*) Either more than 570,000 children in Head Start would not receive the full-day, full-year services they need to succeed, the program would serve some 140,000 fewer children as compared to the President's Budget, or some combination of both.¹
- ❖ **K-12 Education** (*Labor-Health and Human Services-Education*) Nineteen programs that serve primarily PreK-12 students would be eliminated, and Title I would be underfunded by \$1 billion, equivalent to funding for 3,600 schools, 13,000 teachers and aides, and nearly 1.6 million students.¹
- ❖ **Higher Education** (*Labor-Health and Human Services-Education*) The Pell Grant program would be cut by \$370 million, making it more difficult to help students pay for college over the next decade. Funding to oversee student aid programs also would be reduced by \$136 million, or roughly 9 percent, hurting the Department of Education's ability to hold the approximately 6,500 schools that receive Federal dollars accountable to students and taxpayers and ensure that all students have access to high-quality loan servicing.¹

- ❖ **Job Training** (*Labor-Health and Human Services-Education*) Nearly 2 million fewer people would receive job training and employment services, including help finding jobs and skills training.¹

Research and Development

- ❖ **Research Grants** (*Commerce-Justice-Science*) NSF would award 600 fewer research grants, affecting about 7,900 researchers, technicians, and students, slowing the pace of discovery across fields of science and engineering, and inhibiting research essential to U.S. innovation and economic competitiveness.²
- ❖ **Clean Energy Investments** (*Energy and Water Development*) Key R&D and other clean energy investments would be cut, including reductions of 55 percent to solar energy investments and 49 percent to manufacturing, which will slash the number of research, development, and demonstration projects supported in cooperation with industry, universities, and national labs.³
- ❖ **Agricultural and Food Safety Research** (*Agriculture*) USDA's flagship competitive research grant program would be cut by 25 percent, limiting priority research in areas such as plant and animal health and production, food safety, human nutrition and health, bioenergy, and natural resources and the environment.⁴

Public Health, Safety, and Other Core Functions of Government

- ❖ **Tax enforcement and taxpayer services** (*Financial Services and General Government*) House Republicans are proposing to fund the IRS at a level that is less than the agency's FY 1992 budget – 24 years ago, when there were 36 million fewer individual taxpayers and a far less complicated tax code. Funding cuts made to date have already had severe consequences: IRS customer service levels have dropped to unacceptable levels, with more than 8 million taxpayer calls being disconnected due to overloaded IRS phone systems. The IRS has lost 5,000 key enforcement personnel since 2010, costing the Federal government billions in tax revenue each year from corporations and individuals who get away with not paying the taxes they owe. If the IRS is forced to absorb the additional cuts proposed in the House Republican budget, enforcement revenues in FY 2016 are estimated to be more than \$12 billion lower than if FY 2010 staffing levels had been maintained.⁵
- ❖ **Indian Health Service (IHS)** (*Interior and Environment*) Approximately 2,000 fewer inpatient and 50,000 fewer outpatient visits would be available for a population that suffers disproportionately from acute and chronic health issues, despite the fact that the need for these services only continues to grow.⁶
- ❖ **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** (*Interior and Environment*) The EPA's overall budget would be reduced by \$1.2 billion, or 14 percent, undermining implementation of the Clean Power Plan and Clean Water Rule. Cuts would reduce the number of inspections the EPA would be able to conduct for non-compliance with environmental laws that protect the water we drink and the air we breathe;

delay criminal enforcement actions for polluters; postpone efforts to save taxpayer dollars by consolidating EPA facilities, and; decrease support for state and tribal partners in their implementation of the Nation's environmental laws that protect the public's health.⁶

Housing Assistance, Homelessness, and Supportive Services

- ❖ **Permanent Supportive Housing** (*Transportation-Housing and Urban Development*) At least 15,000 fewer families would receive rapid rehousing; and 25,500 fewer units of permanent supportive housing targeted to the chronically homeless would be available.⁷
- ❖ **Housing Choice Vouchers** (*Transportation-Housing and Urban Development*) There would be about 100,000 fewer vouchers for very low-income families. Not only do House Republicans fail to restore the vouchers lost due to the 2013 sequestration, they also fail to fund 71,000 special purpose vouchers, or provide sufficient funding to renew 28,000 currently existing vouchers.⁷
- ❖ **Rural Housing** (*Agriculture*) More than 1,000 additional rental units located in Promise Zones, Strike Force and persistent poverty rural areas would not be funded.⁴
- ❖ **Title X Family Planning** (*Labor-Health and Human Services-Education*) Funding for Title X Family Planning would be eliminated. Title X averts approximately one million unintended pregnancies annually, and served more than four million low-income women and men in 2014.¹

Infrastructure

- ❖ **TIGER Grants** (*Transportation-Housing and Urban Development*) Funding for the competitive TIGER grant program would be slashed by over a billion dollars. That level is about 80 percent below its lowest level since the program began in 2009, and would severely limit DOT's ability to support transformative highway, port, and transit projects around the country.⁷
- ❖ **Manufacturing** (*Commerce-Justice-Science*) Funding for manufacturing programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology would be reduced by 58 percent, undercutting efforts to strengthen resurgent U.S. manufacturing.⁶
- ❖ **National Parks** (*Interior and Environment*) Twenty-five out of the 35 major construction projects and more than one-third of the 464 rehabilitation projects planned for 2016 at our national parks would be delayed.⁶
- ❖ **Weatherization Assistance Program** (*Energy and Water Development*) Three thousand fewer low-income households would receive energy retrofits that lower payments and make homes more energy efficient, as a result of a nearly 10 percent reduction to Weatherization Assistance Program grants.³

National Security

- ❖ **Veterans Affairs** (*Military Construction and Veterans Affairs*) Veterans' medical care would be cut by more than half a billion dollars, equivalent to the cost of providing care for tens of thousands of veterans. This would negatively impact medical care services for veterans, in part by hindering VA's ability to activate new and replacement facilities and adequately maintain existing facility infrastructure.⁸
- ❖ **Peacekeeping** (*State and Foreign Operations*) The number of personnel available to protect civilians, maintain peace and security, assist in disarmament, demobilize and reintegrate former combatants, support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights, and assist in restoring rule of law would be sharply reduced. Specifically, there would be nearly 8,000 fewer peacekeepers in some of the most vulnerable parts of the world if the cut were applied directly to ongoing UN missions.⁹
- ❖ **Other foreign assistance** (*State and Foreign Operations*) The House Republican budget would impose double-digit percentage cuts to funding for U.S. diplomacy and a broad range of programs critical to the President's National Security Strategy, at a cost to American global leadership. The lower funding levels would hamper our efforts to promote economic and security engagement in Central America and help stem illegal immigration; scale back our commitments to address the urgent and growing threat posed by climate change, and; harm critical programs that enhance the ability of our partners and allies to counter terrorism, control the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and build both civilian and military security capacity.⁹

¹ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the House Republican Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill on June 23, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Rogers on the Labor-H bill](#).

² These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the House Republican Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill on May 19, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Rogers on the CJS bill](#).

³ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the House Republican Energy & Water Development appropriations bill on April 21, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Rogers on the E&W bill](#).

⁴ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the House Republican Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill on July 7, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Rogers on the Agriculture bill](#).

⁵ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the House Republican Financial Services and General Government bill on June 16, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Rogers on the FSGG bill](#).

⁶ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the House Republican Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill on June 15, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Rogers on the Interior bill](#).

⁷ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the House Republican Transportation-Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill on May 11, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Rogers on the THUD bill](#).

⁸ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the House Republican Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill on April 21, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Rogers on the MilCon/VA bill](#).

⁹ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the House Republican State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill on June 10, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Rogers on the SFO bill](#).