

FACT SHEET: The Senate 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 Senate Republican appropriations bills and funding targets compared to the President's Budget:¹

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 144,000 fewer children as compared to the President's Budget, or some combination of both.²
- ❖ **Title I** (*Labor-Health and Human Services-Education*) There would be \$850 million less funding for Title I, equivalent to funding for over 3,000 schools, over 11,500 teachers and aides, and more than 1.3 million students.²
- ❖ **Job training** (*Labor-Health and Human Services-Education*) 2.7 million fewer workers would receive job training and employment services, including help finding jobs and skills training.²

Research and Development

- ❖ **National Science Foundation (NSF)** (*Commerce-Justice-Science*) NSF would award about 700 fewer research grants, affecting about 9,100 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.³

- ❖ **Clean energy investments** (*Energy and Water Development*) Key R&D and other clean energy investments would be cut, including cutting investments in wind energy by 68 percent, curtailing critical innovation and technological advancement in clean and renewable energy.⁴

Public Health, Safety, and Other Core Functions of Government

- ❖ **Tax enforcement and taxpayer services** (*Financial Services and General Government*) Senate Republicans are proposing to fund the Internal Revenue Service (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 nearly \$8 billion in tax revenue each year from corporations and individuals who get away with not paying the taxes they owe.
- ❖ **Indian Health Service (IHS)** (*Interior and Environment*) Approximately 3,000 fewer inpatient and 90,000 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.⁵
- ❖ **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** (*Interior and Environment*) Cuts would reduce the number of inspections the EPA would be able to conduct for non-compliance with environmental laws to 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 to protect the public's health.⁵

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.⁶
- ❖ **Housing choice vouchers** (*Transportation-Housing and Urban Development*) There would be 117,000 fewer vouchers for very low-income families. Not only does the Senate fail to restore vouchers lost due to the 2013 sequestration, specifically their levels fail to fund 60,000 special purpose vouchers or provide sufficient funding to renew 50,000 currently existing vouchers.⁶

- ❖ **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.⁹
- ❖ **Home and community-based supportive services** (*Labor-Health and Human Services-Education*) Older Americans and individuals with disabilities would lose vital services, potentially including approximately 500,000 fewer rides to doctors and grocery stores, 200,000 fewer hours of assistance to seniors unable to perform activities of daily living, and 100,000 fewer hours of care for dependent adults in supervised, protective group settings.²

Infrastructure

- ❖ **National Parks** (*Interior and Environment*) The Senate Republican budget would lead to 13 out of the 35 major construction projects, and more than one-third of the 464 repair and rehabilitation projects, planned for 2016 at our national parks under the President's Budget to be delayed.⁵
- ❖ **Weatherization Assistance Program** (*Energy and Water Development*) About 1,800 fewer low-income households would receive energy retrofits that lower bills and make homes more energy efficient, as a result of a nearly 6 percent reduction to Weatherization Assistance Program grants.⁴

National Security

- ❖ **Veterans Affairs** (*Military Construction and Veterans Affairs*) Veterans' medical care would be cut by nearly 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.⁷
- ❖ **Peacekeeping** (*State and Foreign Operations*) Funding supporting United Nations' 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 by 6 percent. Further, cuts would hit efforts to build peacekeeping capacity in Africa and worldwide, including the African Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership, for which less than 20 percent of the Administration's \$110 million request is funded, and the Global Peace Operations Initiative, a longstanding training and peacekeeping capacity-building program, would be cut by over 40 percent.⁸
- ❖ **Other foreign assistance** (*State and Foreign Operations*) The Senate Republican budget would impose double-digit percentage cuts to funding for a broad range of programs critical to the President's National Security Strategy, at a cost to American global leadership. These 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, and build both civilian and military security capacity.⁸

¹ Where available, comparisons are between the President's 2016 Budget request and proposed levels in the Senate's FY 2016 appropriation bills. Where proposed levels are not yet known, comparisons are based on Senate 302(b) allocations and assume that cuts or increases from FY 2015 are distributed equally within bills. Actual cuts relative to the President's Budget could be larger or smaller depending on how the appropriations subcommittees distribute their funding allocations, but smaller cuts to some programs would require larger cuts to others.

² These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the Senate Republican Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill on July 9, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Cochran on the Labor-H bill](#).

³ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the Senate Republican Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill on June 24, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Cochran on the CJS bill](#).

⁴ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the Senate Republican Energy & Water Development appropriations bill on June 2, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Cochran on the E&W bill](#).

⁵ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the Senate Republican Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill on July 9, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Cochran on the Interior bill](#).

⁶ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the Senate Republican Transportation-Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill on July 9, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Cochran on the THUD bill](#).

⁷ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the Senate Republican Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill on June 2, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Cochran on the MilCon/VA bill](#).

⁸ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the Senate Republican State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill on July 29, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Cochran on the SFO bill](#).

⁹ These impacts were updated to reflect the text of the Senate Republican Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill on July 29, 2015. See OMB's [letter to Chairman Cochran on the Agriculture bill](#).