



Legislative Brief

JUNE 14, 2017

TRUMP'S BUDGET IGNORES THE NEEDS OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS!

President Trump released a budget plan calling for \$3.6 trillion in spending cuts over the next decade. This is the largest cut "proposed" by any President in a budget according to the Whitehouse. The cuts would include both discretionary and entitlement programs for low-income families. The budget includes at least \$610 billion in cuts to Medicaid, but that could be more, assuming that the House-passed health care bill goes into effect as passed. It would cut \$190 billion from the food stamp programs and \$272 billion overall from anti-poverty programs over 10 years.

But it will cut other agencies as well including 31.4% of the Environmental Protection Agency's budget over one year, 29.1% from the Dept. of State and other foreign programs and 19.8% from Labor's budget from 2017 to fiscal year 2018. The bill will also defund Planned Parenthood and virtually eliminate the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Trump's budget plan would boost Defense spending by 10% and begin to pay for the border wall. The budget includes \$2.6 billion for border security with \$1.6 billion going toward construction of the wall between Mexico and the U.S. The request for bids on the wall are estimated by Congressional Republicans to cost between \$12 and \$15 billion. The entire border between the U.S. and Mexico runs 2000 miles and Homeland Security estimates the total cost to be at \$21 billion. I know Ohio and many other states need bridges and highways repaired and would gladly match dollars to fix the bad ones.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin gave Republicans the unhappy news that they will have to cast a vote on increasing the government's borrowing authority. The increase for the budget will not provide jobs, improve schools, keep Medicaid at the current levels or balancing the budget.

"Unjust anger cannot be justified for anger tips the scale to one's ruin. Those who are patient stay calm and until the right moment and then cheerfulness comes back to them. They hold back their words until the right moment then the lips of many tell of their good sense."

(SIRACH 1: 22-24 NRSV)

CALL OR WRITE YOUR CONGRESSPERSON SENATOR BROWN AND SENATOR ROB PORTMAN TO PROTECT GREAT LAKES WATER AND FOOD STAMPS

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**You are welcome to copy or quote from the Legislative Brief.
Tom Smith, Editor**

Instead it calls for a tax overhaul that would reduce or eliminate trillions of dollars in taxes that are paid primarily by the wealthy, including the estate tax and the marginal tax rate on ordinary incomes paid by the richest taxpayers.

He plans to reduce Medicaid, the federal program that provides health care to Ohio's poorest citizens by \$1.4 trillion over a decade, and he would allow states to impose strict limits on other major anti-poverty benefits such as food stamps now known as SNAP.

SNAP is a program that provides low-income and no wage families with subsidies for buying groceries. The average is \$124.92 per person per month. SNAP enrollment is 42.3 million nationally. States will be forced to pick-up 25% by 2023. Trump's budget cuts \$191 billion over 10 years. Of the 1.5 million Ohioans receiving food stamps 84.4 % are children, seniors and the disabled.

President Trump's first budget includes \$36 trillion in cuts over 10 years.

Trump's 2018 budget is calculated to cut taxes \$4.1 trillion. Rep. Barbara Lee D-Calf. told Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, "Rarely have I seen such a cruel and morally bankrupt budget. This budget –and you know this—it will push millions of people over the edge. This budget destroys people's lives."

Very much like the lack of success in the U.S. Senate, that the Trump health care bill to replace Obamacare

has had, his budget will most likely find the same outcome. The Senate's #2 Republican, John Cornyn of Texas said, "This budget is basically dead on arrival."

The plan is laced with \$3.6 trillion in cuts to domestic agencies, food stamps, Medicaid, highway funding (job creators??), crop insurance for farmers and medical research and EPA among others. The budget would reduce pension benefits for federal workers by \$63 billion by eliminating costs of living adjustments, student loan subsidies, home heating assistance, and Great Lakes cleanup.

"In the America of President Trump's budget, children, working families, seniors and people with disabilities will be 'fined,' while the wealthiest Americans will get a 'bonus.' What's so 'great' about that America?" asked Illinois Democratic Senator Dick Durbin.

Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown responded, "Taking a blow torch to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative could cost Ohio jobs that rely on the lake, and jeopardize public health by putting our drinking water at risk." Sen. Rob Portman, an Ohio Republican said he will fight to restore funding to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as it "helps protect our environment and strengthen Ohio's economy."

Medical research under Trump's budget, the National Institute of Health will be cut 21%.

