

The Senate is scheduled to vote on the 2018 Budget Resolution this week that calls for tax cuts which could result in cuts to health care, public and medical assistance programs, and scientific research impacting Americans with brain injuries.



ACTION ALERT!

Urge Your Senators to Vote NO on the 2018 Senate Budget!

Background

This year's budget process is very important because it the first step in developing legislation that can be very harmful to people with brain injury. The House and Senate Budgets set overall spending and revenue targets for the next 10 years. The real purpose of this year's budgets is to set the stage for a massive tax cut bill by the end of the year.

The House recently passed its Budget; the **Senate will be voting on its version this week**. The Senate Budget allows for up to \$1.5 trillion to be added to the deficit. If resulting tax cut legislation exceeds this amount, then any amount over that could come from cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and many other programs that are critical for people with disabilities, including brain injury. The Senate Budget assumes some \$5 trillion in spending cuts over 10 years, as well as optimistic projections of economic growth, to make up for lost tax revenue. Learn more [here](#).

The Senate Budget features:

1. A fast-track "reconciliation" process that would allow for tax cuts costing \$1.5 trillion over ten years that require only a simple majority to pass.
2. Budget cuts of \$5.8 trillion over the next decade, including cuts to a broad range of basic public services, assistance for low- and moderate-income Americans, and health care.
 - **Cuts in mandatory programs:** The budget calls for \$4.1 trillion of cuts in entitlement programs over the decade. This includes a cut of \$1.8 trillion in health entitlement programs, including \$473 billion in Medicare and \$1.3 trillion primarily in Medicaid and subsidies to make coverage affordable through the ACA marketplaces. The budget resolution also proposes \$653 billion in cuts to income security programs, a large share of which includes basic assistance to struggling families. Roughly one-quarter (or \$1 trillion) of these entitlement cuts are unspecified, meaning that cuts in a range of programs would be significantly deeper than the budget resolution portrays.
3. Rosy economic assumptions to mask the size of future deficits.
4. Changes in Senate rules to make it easier to consider a bill on the Senate floor without a

CBO cost estimate.

While the tax cut legislation that would result from both chambers passing a joint Budget is still unknown, the [tax plan framework](#) released last month indicates that its benefits are heavily tilted towards wealthy individuals and corporations. If the House and Senate are able to pass a joint budget, it would allow for legislation that is easy to pass since it only needs a simple majority (51) in the Senate (using reconciliation).

Take Action!

The Senate is scheduled to vote on the 2018 Budget Resolution this week. **Call your Senators today.** Call the Capitol Switchboard number 202-224-3121 and ask for your Senators.

What to Say:

- I am a constituent and a member of (organization)..
 - Please vote **NO** on the 2018 Senate Budget Resolution.
 - While the budget starts the process for tax cuts, It could also pave the way for cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and other critical programs for people with disabilities, including individuals with brain injury, to help pay for these tax cuts.
 - Tax reform should be done through the regular and bipartisan process, hearing from experts and all stakeholders, marking up in committees, and debating in the House and Senate.
 - Tax cuts should benefits all citizens and should not be made by cutting programs that support people with brain injury and other low income individuals in the community.
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Please feel free to forward and share with disability advocates, families and individuals with brain injury in your State.

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