



Public Release Date: May 10, 2018

See Media Contacts Below

75 New York State Organizations Call on Congress to Oppose Federal Budget Cuts to Critical Programs

Group urges Congress to reject a Farm Bill that takes food off the tables of needy Americans

(New York, NY) – On May 10, 2018, the New York Federal Budget Response Team submitted a letter on behalf of 75 service providers and advocacy organizations (listed below) asking members of Congress to fully fund and defend critical programs from budget cuts. The text of the letter is below:

Dear New York State Congressman:

We, the undersigned organizations representing New York’s social services sector, write to express our strong opposition to the [partisan Farm Bill](#), put forth by President Trump and Congressional Republicans, that would end or reduce food assistance for a substantial number of low-income New Yorkers, including children in working families.

Moreover, even though the President’s budget was largely rejected, we are deeply concerned about the flawed policy proposals contained within, many of which have been echoed by Speaker Ryan and other congressional leaders under the banner of so-called “welfare reform” and now “workforce development.” Make no mistake, these are code words for making cuts to Medicaid, housing, and other programs that, when full funded, strengthen the economy, improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers, and demonstrate how we as a State value opportunity and dignity.

They seek every opportunity to make deep cuts to services that support low- and middle-income families, children, older adults, and people with disabilities, predictably citing the soaring federal deficit exacerbated by the outlandish \$1.9 trillion in tax cuts – 80% of which will flow to the top 1%.

In New York, [840,000](#) children are lifted above the poverty line each year by safety net programs; [597,000](#) residents were lifted out of poverty by the earned income tax credit and child tax credit from 2011 - 2013; [576,000](#) low-income households rely on federal rental assistance; [2,968,000](#) residents received SNAP in FY 2016; and hundreds of thousands more rely on investments in job training, education, and other social services. More information on the programs included in non-defense discretionary is available [here](#).

We call on the New York congressional delegation to fully fund these programs and defend them from budget cuts, ensuring that everyone has access to the services they need to live healthy and productive lives.

The [Federal Tax and Budget Response Team](#) is a state-based coalition whose steering committee includes FPWA, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New York, Fiscal Policy Institute, Human Services Council of New York, United Neighborhood Houses, and more. Last year’s effort saw more than 100 New York organizations sign on to urge Congress to reject budget cuts.



Media Contacts:

- Ron Deutsch, Executive Director, FPI | deutsch@fiscalpolicy.org
- Michelle Jackson, Deputy Director, HSC | jacksonm@humanservicescouncil.org
- Sherice Brammer, Communications Associate, FPWA | sbrammer@fpwa.org

List of Supporting Organizations

- African Services Committee
- Albany County Central Federation of Labor
- Alliance for Positive Change
- ATLI- Action Together Long Island
- Brooklyn Kindergarten Society
- NY Immigration Coalition
- Catholic Charities
- Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens
- Catholic Charities of Buffalo
- Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler
- Catholic Charities of Diocese of Albany
- Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse
- CDRC
- Center for Independence of the Disabled NY
- Children Defense Fund
- Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.
- Citizen Action of New York
- Coalition for the Homeless
- Coalition on the Continuum of Care
- Community Food Advocates
- Community Health Net
- Community Healthcare Network
- Community Resource Exchange (CRE)
- Day Care Council of New York
- Dewitt Reformed Church
- Early Care & Learning Council
- East Harlem Block Nursery, Inc.
- Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley
- Fiscal Policy Institute
- Food & Water Watch
- Forestdale, Inc.
- FPWA
- GOSO
- GRAHAM WINDHAM
- Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
- HCCI
- Heights and Hills
- Housing and Services, Inc.
- Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement
- Jewish Family Service
- Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS
- Latino Commission on AIDS
- LEHSRC
- Make the Road New York
- MercyFirst
- Met Council
- Metro New York Health Care for All
- Mohawk Valley CAA
- NAMI
- New York Association on Independent Living
- New York Democratic County Committee
- New York State Community Action Association
- New York State Network for Youth Success
- New York StateWide Senior Action Council
- NYSCAA
- Park Avenue Christian Church (DoC)/ UCC
- Partnership with Children
- Met Council
- Professional Staff Congress
- PSC/CUNY AFT Local 2334
- ROCitizen
- Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.
- SCO Family of Services
- SICM - Schenectady Community Ministries
- Sunnyside Community Services
- Supportive Housing Network of New York, Inc
- The Alliance for Positive Change
- The Children's Village
- The Door - A Center of Alternatives
- The Radical Age Movement
- UJA-Federation of New York
- United Neighborhood Houses
- University Settlement
- Urban Pathways, Inc
- Women's Center for Education & Career Advancement