

Talking Points: Budget Reconciliation

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This administration’s policy choices prioritize mass deportations and surveillance over healthcare, food, education and economic stability, undermining the well-being of millions of American families. And they are proposing terminating Medicaid, SNAP and Pell Grants for millions of working people and middle-class families — just to fund enormous tax breaks that primarily benefit giant corporations and billionaires.

Current Status of the Federal Budget Debate

- In late February the House passed a budget resolution that would make history’s largest cuts to programs on which millions of Latinos depend, using the savings to pay for massive tax breaks that primarily benefit large corporations and billionaires. The proposal would also make massive investments in immigration enforcement, without any guardrails to protect hard-working, law-abiding people who have lived in America for decades.
- The Senate will soon take up the House budget bill, probably in April or May. Once both chambers agree on a budget resolution, they will then turn to “Budget Reconciliation” legislation, which will make specific changes to federal law.
- The full federal budget process will last at least until Memorial Day, and probably longer.

Republican Budget Resolutions Threaten American Families, Workers and Children

- The House budget plan, now before the Senate, would make the largest cuts to health care and nutrition programs in American history. The legislation would terminate millions of Latinos and other Americans people from programs like Medicaid, SNAP (America’s major anti-hunger program) and use the money to pay for enormous tax breaks that primarily benefit large corporations and a relative handful of the wealthiest people in America.
- Republican budget proposals would divert taxpayer dollars to fund mass deportations and further undermine hard-won civil liberties.
- These policies would harm millions of Americans by slashing healthcare, nutrition assistance, and education funding while exacerbating economic instability.

Threats to Health and Well-Being

- Proposed cuts include at least \$880 billion from essential healthcare programs, with Medicaid alone serving more than 70 million people, including children, seniors, people with disabilities and working families.
- **These cuts would be the largest Medicaid reduction in U.S. history**, leading to more medical debt, higher hospitalization rates, and more people getting sick and dying from cancer, heart attacks, and other serious diseases.

- People from all backgrounds will be harmed by Medicaid cuts, but Latino communities would be disproportionately endangered — Medicaid protects 20 million Latinos, including half of all Latino children.
- Cuts to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would strip coverage from 5 million people, including half of the Latinos who currently buy their own ACA insurance. Those cuts would also drive up health insurance costs by an average of \$1,200 annually for 20 million Americans, including 5 million Latinos.

Harm to Nutrition and Food Programs/Security

- Proposed \$230 billion cuts to the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), America's largest anti-hunger program, would devastate Latinos, nearly 40% of whom already do not have enough food to eat. Like the Budget Resolution's Medicaid cuts, **the proposed SNAP cuts would be the largest in U.S. history.**
- SNAP currently helps pay for food for 10 million Latinos, including 5 million children, yet the average daily benefit is just \$6.20 per day.
- One in eight Latino adults has already gone into debt to afford food — these cuts would deepen food insecurity nationwide.

Economic Devastation of Mass Deportations

- Republicans propose billions in additional funding for mass deportations, targeting 8.1 million undocumented workers — 5% of the U.S. workforce.
- Mass Deportations – which could include individuals who don't harm our public safety and national security - would shrink the U.S. GDP by 2.6%, causing a \$5 trillion economic loss over a decade.
- The agricultural workforce would shrink by 16%, raising food prices and straining American family budgets.
- The cost of mass deportations could reach \$967.9 billion over 10 years, while eliminating \$100 billion in annual tax revenue from undocumented workers.
- History proves mass deportations don't help U.S. workers — in the past mass deportation programs have led to labor shortages and higher business costs.

Government Overreach and Erosion of Civil Liberties

- The proposed budget resolution includes \$350 billion for immigration enforcement — \$175 million per mile of the southern border.
- Americans want strong borders. Those who would harm our public and national safety should be deported, but it should be done without sacrificing our Constitutional rights.
- Polls show voters prioritize inflation (47%) over immigration (23%).
- Extreme measures like using Guantanamo or military force are deeply unpopular, with voters favoring policies targeting drug cartels and human traffickers rather than punishing law-abiding families.

Threats to Higher Education

- Proposed \$330 billion in education and workforce cuts put Pell Grants at risk, making college unaffordable for thousands of low-income and Latino students. Pell grants are offered by the federal government to help first-generation college students access higher education.
- Latino students who want a college education, already facing financial barriers, would be disproportionately affected, widening the education gap and worsening economic inequality.