

## TALKING POINTS

### Budget Reconciliation

*June 4, 2025*

#### What's happening in Congress — and why it matters to you

Right now, Republican leaders in Congress are advancing a budget bill that would:

- Make the biggest cuts in history to health care and food assistance.
- Raise taxes on low-income working families.
- Exclude millions of children from critical tax benefits.
- Restrict access to higher education over the next 10 years.
- Expand unchecked immigration enforcement.
- Deliver massive tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy.

This budget is moving through a special process called “budget reconciliation,” which allows Congress to pass major changes quickly and without bipartisan support.

#### Why does this matter to our communities?

Don't let your representatives and this administration fool you. This budget reconciliation package promises a lot of good that will seem hopeful at first glance. However, it will inflict long-lasting economic woes throughout our community.

This legislation will:

- Take away your family's health care.
- Make it harder to put food on the table.
- Raise your cost of living.
- Put college out of reach for many students.

Instead of helping working families, this proposal guts the programs that support them and redirects those savings to fund mass deportations and tax breaks for large corporations and the ultra-wealthy.

UnidosUS [polling](#) confirms that cost of living, jobs, housing affordability and health care continue to be top priorities for Latino voters. This bill fails to address any of them — and makes them worse. It would:

- Raise taxes on families earning under \$30,000 a year.
- Eliminate the powerful anti-poverty Child Tax Credit for 4.5 million American children simply because their parents are immigrants.
- Send 82% of the tax benefits to the highest-income households.

### **When will this happen?**

Congress is moving fast. Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives have already passed the bill, and the U.S. Senate could vote as early as the week of June 23. Because it's being advanced through the budget reconciliation process, they can pass the bill with a simple majority — no bipartisan support needed.

### **How this budget hurts you and your community**

#### **Cuts to health care: losing coverage and paying more for care**

- Cuts more than \$1 trillion from health care programs, including over \$800 billion from Medicaid, which provides health insurance to more than 70 million low-income children, seniors, people with disabilities and working families. This would be the largest Medicaid cut in American history.
  - 20 million Latinos rely on Medicaid — including half of all Latino children.
- Allows Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits to expire and adds new restrictions that will prevent millions of working people from buying health insurance.
  - Premiums will nearly double for more than 20 million Americans who currently purchase ACA health insurance with the help of health care tax credits.
- Cuts to Medicaid and the ACA combined would terminate health insurance coverage for more than 15 million people.
  - People with chronic health conditions would lose coverage, and family medical costs would skyrocket.
- Although undocumented immigrants are already ineligible for Medicaid, this bill punishes states that use their own funds to cover children, pregnant women and senior citizens.
  - People will wind up going to the hospital emergency room when their health problems get significantly worse, raising costs for everyone.
- The bill adds more paperwork barriers that will deny health care to citizens and lawfully present immigrants.
  - Currently, people who swear under penalty of perjury that they are a citizen or have a satisfactory immigration status receive short-term health coverage while they gather documentation or wait for government agencies to verify their status.

- This bill ends existing coverage, meaning long bureaucratic delays will deny health care to citizens and lawful permanent residents.
  - For example, newborn babies will be denied Medicaid until they get a birth certificate — which can take weeks or even months, depending on the state. In the meantime, if a baby is seriously ill, the family would get no coverage.

### **Cuts to food assistance: making it harder to cope with rising food costs**

- Makes the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in history. SNAP helps more than 42 million low-income people — mostly children, seniors and people with disabilities.
  - The bill would eliminate roughly 30% of SNAP's federal funding for the next 10 years.
- Ends SNAP for at least 4.6 million people and their families, and cuts benefits by at least \$300 a year for most people who remain eligible.
  - SNAP already falls short of meeting families' needs, providing just \$2.84 per meal at maximum.
- Shifts unprecedented costs to states — forcing them to take away SNAP from currently eligible families, cut SNAP benefits, raise taxes or cut other critical services, like education and public safety from state budgets.
- Hurts families who are already struggling:
  - One in eight Latino adults has gone into debt to afford groceries.
  - Nearly two in five Latinos report not having enough to eat.These cuts will make those problems worse, deepening poverty and hunger.
- [UnidosUS polling](#) found that food and basic living costs ranked the highest among Latino voter priorities, and **62% oppose cutting SNAP**.

### **Penalizing job loss by taking away Medicaid and SNAP when people can't accurately complete burdensome paperwork requirements**

- Punishes people who lose their jobs by terminating their health care and food assistance. The bill takes away Medicaid and SNAP for people who cannot document employment, including millions of people with disabilities, people caring for children or aging parents and even people who work but can't meet complex bureaucratic requirements.
- Reduces people's ability to work by taking away food and medical care needed to stay healthy and employed.
- Disproportionately hurts Latino families, who are more likely to face barriers like limited English proficiency, limited broadband access and less help with necessary paperwork.

**Misleading voters on the bottom line and pretending no one will be harmed**

Members of Congress who voted for the bill claim that only those who “cheat the system” will get hurt. That is simply not true.

- You cannot cut health programs by more than \$1 trillion dollars and eliminate 30% of all SNAP funding without real harm.
- These cuts are the largest ever made — and will have devastating effects:
  - Vulnerable families — including children, seniors, people with disabilities and low-wage workers without health benefits — will be hit the hardest.
- Republicans are moving too far and too fast:
  - Members of the House admitted they didn’t have enough time to read the bill before voting.
  - While these federal programs may need improvements, they deal with matters of life and death. Any change must be made with surgical precision, not the reckless swing of a chainsaw.
  - These irresponsible programs cuts would strip health insurance from millions, raise costs for everyone and leave millions more families unable to afford groceries.

**Threats to education: making college unaffordable**

- This budget could make higher education unaffordable, pushing students and families into more debt or to forgo college entirely.
- Adds new restrictions on federal Pell Grants, eliminates interest-free student loans and removes affordable repayment options for student borrowers.
- Over half of Latino college students rely on federal Pell Grants to pay for school.
- Eliminates Grad PLUS and restricts Parent PLUS loans — which removes critical funding from aspiring teachers, doctors and other professionals — pushing them toward more expensive private loans with fewer protections.

**Funding mass deportations instead of helping families**

- The budget assigns \$75 billion to massively expand immigration enforcement and targets 8.1 million undocumented workers, many of whom have lived in the U.S. for decades, are parents to U.S. citizen children and contribute significantly to our economy and communities.
- Sweeping enforcement would disrupt industries that rely on immigrant labor — including agriculture, construction, elder care and hospitality.
- Mass detentions and deportations would:
  - Separate families.
  - Drive millions of workers out of the formal economy.

- Shrink the tax base.
  - Worsen workforce shortages in already struggling local economies.
- Over time, deporting millions of essential workers could shrink GDP by 2.6% and raise prices for food, housing and other essential services — while increasing poverty in both immigrant and native-born communities.

## What you can do

- **Share your story – Your voice matters.** How have programs like Medicaid, the ACA, SNAP or Pell Grants helped your family?
  - [Tell us your story](#) so we can let lawmakers know how cuts to these lifesaving federal programs can cause real harm.
- Join UnidosUS — We're fighting these proposed cuts and advocating for a budget that puts working-class families first. Through our UnidosUS Call to Action Campaign, we're empowering communities to contact their Members of Congress.
  - **Amplify our Call to Action Campaign** by sharing the link to your network.
  - **Cobrand our Call to Action Campaign** by adding our logo to your website.
- **Contact your elected representative** — Ask for a meeting, send a letter or call their office to express your opposition. ([Sample script included.](#))
- **Let your local media outlets know how this bill would hurt your family and community.** Write an op-ed or letter to the editor and contact your local radio or television news stations to share your story.

## Additional Resources

- [UnidosUS Latino Voter Data Hub](#) — Congressional district-level data on Latino voters.
- [Congressional District Interactive Map – Medicaid](#) — Data on Medicaid enrollees by district.
- [Congressional District Interactive Map – ACA](#) — Data on ACA enrollees and premium increases if subsidies expire.
- [SNAP Community Characteristics Dashboard](#) — USDA tool to explore SNAP enrollment by congressional district.