



Center for Public Policy Priorities

Twenty Years: 1985 to 2005

CPPP Urges Calls to U.S. Senators Right This Minute to Stop Budget Reconciliation

The U.S. Senate will vote late today (Monday 12/19/05) on budget reconciliation. A very close vote is expected. We urge you to call our Senators to tell them to vote no. The bill includes the following cuts to programs that serve low-income Americans:

- **Medicaid:** Low-income families will have to pay premiums and co-payments that may increase faster than their incomes for medical care under Medicaid and face shrinking benefits.
- **SSI:** People with disabilities will have to wait as long as a year to receive the back SSI benefits they are owed because the government has taken so long to approve their application.
- **Child Support:** Children will be deprived of \$2.9 billion over 5 years/\$8.4 billion over 10 years in child support not collected because of cuts in enforcement.
- **Foster Care:** Grandparents or other relatives in certain states will lose foster care assistance.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families:** The agreement assumes that work requirements will be made harsher and expects states to fail – and so estimates that states will pay penalties to the federal government. The Congressional Budget Office expects that states will in turn create harsher penalties for poor families, causing more to lose benefits.
- **Child Care:** CBO estimates that it will cost \$12.5 billion in new funding to pay for the harsher work requirements and to keep up with the costs of providing existing child care. The budget deal only provides \$1 billion – a gap of \$11.5 billion. That means 255,000 fewer children will receive child care in 2010 compared to this year.
- **Student Loans:** Cut \$12.7 billion over 5 years.

For more information about the conference agreement, see this paper by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: <http://www.cbpp.org/12-18-05bud3.htm>. A more detailed analysis of the TANF provisions is available at <http://www.cbpp.org/12-18-05bud2.htm>.

To voice your opposition to Texas Senators, you may call direct:

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (202) 224-5922, <http://hutchison.senate.gov/e-mail.htm>

Senator John Cornyn (202) 224-2934,
http://www.cornyn.senate.gov/contact/index_1.html

Or use the toll-free number: 800-426-8073. Ask to be connected to your Senators. Urge them to:

Vote NO on the budget reconciliation conference report (S. 1932). It hurts low-income children, families, the elderly, and disabled. Do not allow these one-sided sacrifices to be inflicted on low-income Americans while Congress is preparing to give still more tax breaks to the rich.