



Center for Public Policy Priorities

Twenty Years: 1985 to 2005

It Ain't Over Until the Fat Lady Sings

Go See the Fat Lady While She is at Home

With the Vice President casting the tiebreaking vote, the Senate voted 51 to 50 for a budget reconciliation bill designed to cut programs for low-income Americans, while catering to the pharmaceutical and managed care industries. For details go to CBPP at <http://www.cbpp.org/12-20-05bud.htm>. Now the bill goes back to the House for another vote after the holiday recess. We need you to raise a delegation to go visit your Member of Congress at home during this recess. Nothing is more effective than a delegation visiting a Member in the district office. We do not want to give you false hope, but the vote in the House was so very close, and the bill is so very bad, that it would be irresponsible not to continue to speak out against it.

Gathering a delegation to go see your Member is also important for another reason—stopping irresponsible tax cuts. This budget reconciliation is a two-part process: cut services for the poor, then cut taxes, with the rich getting a big break, resulting in a net budget deficit. For information about where Congress may go with tax cuts when it returns in January, go to <http://www.cbpp.org/11-17-05tax.htm>. If your Member tells you they voted to cut services for the poor to control the deficit, then demand that they refuse to vote to cut taxes for the same reason.

We know we have called you to action repeatedly on this issue, but action is important. Because of you, Congress cut less than it would have otherwise and did not cut food stamps at all. This is a democracy. Your voices matter. Speak out.