



★ WASHINGTON WATCH ★

An update on federal action from

The Center for Public Policy Priorities

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Senate Welfare Reform Debate Postponed to September: NOW IS THE TIME TO DELIVER A STRONG MESSAGE TO CONGRESS!

Senate leaders have announced that action on the Senate's welfare reform legislation will be postponed until after the Senate's 3-week summer recess. This is due both to disagreements among Republicans, and to the resistance of Democratic Senators to the Dole proposal.

The voices of Americans from all over the country expressing alarm over the dismantling of basic protections for children and families in need without regard for the real-world fiscal or social consequences at the state and local level have helped prevent rapid passage of destructive legislation. It is critical that this 3 week break be used to let ALL our Congressional representatives -- Democrat or Republican, Senator or Representative -- know how Texans feel about the elimination of entitlements for AFDC, Food Stamps, and Medicaid.

MESSAGE TO YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE:

- Oppose turning entitlements into block grants for AFDC, Food Stamps, Child Nutrition, or Medicaid.
 - Block Grants for these programs only shift costs of services to people in need to states, counties and cities -- the need for food or health care will not go away.
 - Block Grants represent lost revenue to Texas' economy -- they will not reduce federal taxes. Between Welfare and Medicaid cuts, Texas will lose \$8.1 billion by the year 2000. This means lost income not just to "poor people", but to hospitals, doctors, grocery stores, landlords, public utilities, etc.
 - Lost Medicaid and Medicare income will deal a severe blow to Texas public hospitals -- a blow that is likely to drive up your local property tax bill.
- Support REAL Welfare reform that provides job training, child care, and the hope for a living wage.
- Oppose deficit reduction that depends on dismantling Medicare, Medicaid, and the safety net for the very poor, while hundreds of billions of dollars of tax breaks for corporations are not even being considered for cuts.

**WRITE OR PHONE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE TODAY!
ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME!**

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