



Center for Public Policy Priorities

Call to Action to Stop Spending Cuts for the Poor and Tax Cuts for Wealthy

One month ago, as part of a national effort, we asked you to urge your senators and congressional representative not to cut federal spending on critical health and human services such as Medicaid and Food Stamps. Because of your efforts, Congress delayed taking action, but congressional committees are again moving ahead with plans to mark up cuts during the week of October 17, with the Budget Committees slated to package the cuts around October 26, and Congress to consider bills making the cuts shortly thereafter.

Leadership in both chambers is now pushing to make even deeper cuts than the originally proposed \$35 billion. For example, the Finance Committee is apparently considering cuts of as much as \$12 to billion in Medicaid, even though the original target was \$10 billion.

Some argue that Congress has to cut spending because of the cost of the war in Iraq and to pay to rebuild after Katrina and Rita. As a simple matter of arithmetic, however, spending cuts are going 1) to maintain ill-advised tax cuts for the wealthy, and 2) to give more tax cuts for the wealthy.

To see a few astounding graphics putting this all in perspective, go to: <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=463>.

Please join us and other citizens across the country in a National Call to Action by telling our senators and representatives what we want. There is no time for letters—either call or e-mail. Please forward this e-mail to family, friends, and networks and ask them to call or e-mail too.

You can call toll free on October 17 and 18 by going to 1-800-426-8073. Ask the operator to connect you to the Capitol Switchboard. Make three calls, one to each senator and one to your representative. When their office answers the phone, say something like: “My name is [name] and I live in [your town/city]. I would like [name] to oppose \$35 billion in cuts to Medicaid, Food Stamps, and other vital services, and to oppose \$70 billion in more tax cuts. We need help for low-income Texans, not more tax cuts for those with plenty.”

If the lines are busy, please be patient and try again, or dial their direct lines (not toll-free), or send an e-mail. To find out their names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses go to: <http://www.thecapitol.net/VisitingDC/whatsthedeal.htm#Contacting>

To read our own letter to the Texas congressional delegation, go to: <http://www.cppp.org/research.php?aid=463>.

Please speak up, even if you despair about our congressional delegation listening. This is a democracy. If we speak up, the strength of our logic and the strength of our voices can alter the course of events.