



May 10, 2011

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Longworth House Office Building
Independence and New Jersey Avenues, S.E.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Ryan:

Today, the House will vote on the Sequester Replacement and Reconciliation Act (HR 5652). We do not know all the details and full ramifications, and neither do you. We urge you not to vote for this legislation until you have a full understanding of its consequences for the children you serve. What we know of the legislation so far suggests that the consequences will be dire. The bill cuts child nutrition through deep cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Nearly half of every SNAP dollar helps children get the food they need to grow and thrive, and this bill cuts 37 billion of those dollars.

Cuts made to the Social Services Block Grant could result in 1.7 million children losing access to protective services, 451,000 children being denied foster care, and 640,000 children losing child abuse prevention services. The change in the Child Tax Credit could result in 5.5 million children and their families losing access to this benefit. The proposed health care cuts could have a devastating impact on children's health, jeopardizing Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid coverage for as many as 14 million kids. The long term reduction in discretionary spending, could disproportionately affect children's education and housing programs. How many of the children harmed by this legislation live in your state? How many live in your congressional district?

One in five American children lives in poverty. The same share goes to bed at night not knowing if they or someone in their family won't have enough food the next day. Child care is a lifeline for millions of kids whose parents need to work. Communities all over America are confronting the ugly truth of child abuse. And as job losses have cost millions of children their health insurance, CHIP and Medicaid have prevented them from becoming uninsured. Now is not the time to cut these lifelines for kids.

Show the parents you serve that you aren't out of touch with the problems that really matter to them. Insist on understanding the consequences for your state's children before you cast your vote

and please don't balance the budget on their backs. When it comes to children, the stakes are too high to make such important decisions in the dark.

Thank you.
Bruce Lesley

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Lesley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

President
First Focus Campaign for Children