

Talking Points HOUSE REPUBLICAN BUDGET (THE RYAN BUDGET)

- Extremist Republicans in Congress just issued their budget demands for 2014, and they are a rehash of the same old tired ideas – on steroids. Rep. Paul Ryan and the Republican leadership are demanding outrageously lower tax rates for Wall Street and the wealthiest 2% of Americans—and they want to pay for them by voucherizing Medicare and cutting Medicaid benefits and essential services that working people depend on.
- The Ryan/GOP budget would cut spending by \$5.7 trillion – devastating programs like child nutrition, cancer research and transportation and shrink government to the size it was in the 1950s.
- Less than six months ago voters rejected the Ryan/Romney agenda of more prosperity for the super wealthy at the expense of the rest of us. While this may be a new budget, it's full of old ideas.
- The Ryan GOP Budget would increase tax subsidies for corporations that send jobs overseas, lower taxes for the wealthiest Americans and lower the corporate income tax rate.
- According to the Economic Policy Institute, the Ryan/GOP budget would decrease gross domestic product by 1.7 percent and kill 2 million jobs in 2014, just as our economy is trying to turn the corner. This same kind of austerity is what led to Europe's slow growth and shrinking economy.
- Instead of calling for the sensible repeal of the sequester, Ryan would double down on harmful cuts to programs that build up the middle class. **We must immediately repeal the across the board sequester cuts and urge lawmakers to protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid from benefit cuts.**

Cuts to Medicare Benefits

- The Ryan GOP budget would end Medicare as we know it and replace it with a voucher, forcing seniors into an inadequate private market to fend for themselves.
- We need to cut health care costs, not benefits. But the Ryan GOP budget does nothing to control health care costs. Instead it simply asks seniors to pay more.
- Medicare leads private plans in controlling costs and helps bring down health care costs for everyone. Medicare is the foundation of our health care system and it is the most efficient program we have to insure seniors.
- The Obama administration's efforts to control health care costs are beginning to work. New projections show that Medicare spending will be significantly lower than expected. In order to continue this positive trend we should further reduce costs – not benefits -- by allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices.

Cuts to Medicaid Benefits

- Turning Medicaid into a “block grant” is just Washington-speak for cutting funding for health care that goes to those who need it most. This plan would take away health care for millions of seniors and the most vulnerable.

Targets Social Security

- The Ryan/GOP budget would create a new fast-track procedure that would enable Republicans to ram through their agenda to cut Social Security benefits. Cuts like those proposed by the Simpson-Bowles commission that would raise the retirement age and calculate the cost of living in a way that harms seniors.

The Facts on the Ryan/GOP Zombie Budget

Because bad ideas are hard to kill.

The Ryan budget continues “sequestration.”

- The Ryan budget keeps in place the across-the-board budget cuts that began on March 1, 2013 and will cost over 750,000 jobs this year.
- The Ryan budget keeps in place sequestration budget cuts for the next decade, which will cost even more jobs and keep unemployment high.

The Ryan budget shifts costs to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

- The Ryan budget turns Medicaid into a block grant and slashes funding.
- The Ryan budget increases “means testing” for Medicare beneficiaries—meaning higher premiums for middle class seniors with incomes over \$47,000.
- The Ryan budget calls for turning Medicare into a voucher program.
- The Ryan budget repeals the Affordable Care Act, increasing the number of uninsured by 27 million in 2021 and repealing current benefits for seniors, women, young people, and people with pre-existing conditions.

The Ryan budget gives more tax breaks to Wall Street and the wealthiest 2% of Americans.

- The Ryan budget increases the tax subsidy for sending jobs overseas by eliminating taxation of overseas corporate profits.
- The Ryan budget lowers the top income tax rate for the wealthiest Americans from 39.6% to 25%.
- The Ryan budget lowers the corporate income tax rate from 35% to 25%.
- The Ryan budget does not name a single tax loophole it would eliminate.
- Lowering the top corporate and individual tax rates to 25% blows such an enormous hole in the budget that it necessarily requires higher taxes on working people—including taxation of their health benefits.

The Ryan budget guts essential services working people depend on.

- The Ryan budget turns the food stamp program into a block grant.
- The Ryan budget requires federal employees to pay \$132 billion more for the same retirement benefits.
- The Ryan budget eliminates funding for high-speed rail projects.
- The Ryan budget repeals protections against another financial crisis that were enacted in the wake of the last financial crisis (as part of the “Dodd Frank” bill).

The Ryan budget targets Social Security.

- The Ryan budget puts forward as a model the Simpson-Bowles budget plan, which cut Social Security benefits by 19%, including cuts to Social Security COLAs.
- The Ryan budget creates a new stealth fast-track procedure to ram through benefit cuts.

Call your members of Congress now at: 888-659-9401 and tell them:

- **Repeal the sequester.**
- **Protect Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security from benefit cuts.**
- **Close tax loopholes for Wall Street and the wealthiest 2% of Americans.**