



March 25, 2015

SUPPORT HOUSE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET ALTERNATIVE

Dear Representative:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States, we write to express our support for the Fiscal Year 2016 budget proposal offered by Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). We urge you and your colleagues to support this budget alternative rather than passing a resolution that attempts to balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable Americans and hides the true costs of proposed cuts.

The Leadership Conference believes that the Democratic budget alternative would stimulate economic growth for all Americans, and help many of the diverse communities we represent, many of them low-income, which been greatly harmed by the effects of sequestration. We believe that our nation needs an economy where there is more broadly shared prosperity, and one in which programs helping vulnerable groups like young children, seniors, low-income families, individuals with disabilities, students, the unemployed, and the uninsured are not compromised in the name of tax breaks for the wealthy. The House Democratic budget would lift the sequester and offers key investments in the communities who need the most help, including improvements to the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

As many low- and middle-income families begin to regain their footing after the economic downturn, it is imperative that we not deal another blow to these same hard-working Americans by increasing their tax burden. In contrast to the Price budget, the House Democratic budget alternative protects funding for programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), programs that are critical to the health and well-being of many of the communities the Leadership Conference represents. The budget alternative also includes increased funding for Head Start and other early childhood programs, investments that are critical to lifting future generations out of poverty. And unlike the Price budget, the Democratic budget alternative would not cut Pell grant funding but instead includes significant funding, enabling more young people to afford a college education.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the House Democrat's alternative FY2016 budget proposal. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Chatterjee, Senior Counsel at (202) 466-3648.

Sincerely,

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