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The Senate Republican Budget is Bad for Pennsylvania Families & Children

Pennsylvania's future strength and prosperity depend upon the success of our children. As such, investments in the health and education of our kids must be a top priority. The budget offered by Senate Republicans fails in this respect, proposing deep cuts in almost every area important to children – from ensuring they are well educated and well fed, to keeping them healthy. This brief details the proposed cuts and their potential effects in Fiscal Year 2016 and beyond.

Cuts to Early Learning & Educationⁱ - Under the Republican budget:

- 1,250 kids would be cut from Head Start in Pennsylvania and 35,000 kids cut nationwide.
- Funding for disadvantaged students in Pennsylvania would be cut by \$44.1 million. Overall, \$1.2 billion would be cut nationwide.
- Funding for students with disabilities in Pennsylvania would be cut by \$12.2 million . Overall, \$347 million would be cut nationwide.

Investing early in a child's life yields savings over a lifetime. In particular, noted economists believe that the return on investment in early learning could be as high as \$17 for every dollar spent.

Support for Working Familiesⁱⁱ - Under the Republican budget:

- 620 Pennsylvania families would lose their housing supports that allow them to afford decent and safe housing. Nationwide, 133,000 families would be cut.
- Improvements in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) that helped lift 1 million children across the nation out of poverty would be eliminated.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In 2015, as many as 486,000 Pennsylvania families will receive a total of \$423 million in tax cuts from these improvements.

We should be making investments and using the tax code to help working families rise into the middle class.

Child Nutrition – Under the Republican budget:

- Food assistance provided to families in Pennsylvania through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) would be cut by \$4.1 billion.^{iv}
- Nearly half of all SNAP participants are children^v and in 2013 SNAP helped lift 2.1 million children out of poverty.^{vi}

Children with access to SNAP are more likely to graduate from high school. They are less likely in adulthood to have stunted growth, be diagnosed with heart disease, or be obese.



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Child Health – Under the Republican budget:

- Pennsylvania could lose more than \$41 billion in cuts to Medicaid over 10 years.^{vii}
- Although kids make up only 20% of the costs in Medicaid, they are nearly half of all enrollees.^{viii} In Pennsylvania, more than 1 million children receive health insurance through Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).^{ix}

The idea that the next generation will have a better life than the one that came before it is at the heart of the American Dream – an ideal that makes our nation great. Unfortunately the Senate Republican budget keeps that dream from becoming a reality for too many of our children.

ⁱ Figures reported from the “Republican Budget Resolutions: Same Failed Top-Down Economics.” Released by the Executive Office of the President, March 2015.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ DaSilva, Bryan “[Congressional Budget Plans Hurt Low-Income Working Families](#).” Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, March 19, 2015.

^{iv} White House Report.

^v Feeding America “[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#).”

^{vi} “[Policy Basics: Introduction to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#).” Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, January 8, 2015.

^{vii} White House Report.

^{viii} Paradise, Julia “[Medicaid Moving Forward](#).” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, March 9, 2015.

^{ix} “[Health Insurance Coverage of Children 0-18](#).” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2013.”