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Statement from the
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Senate GOP Budget Delivers Tax Cuts to the Rich at Expense of People Living in Poverty

Shriver Center Urges Congress to Invest in Programs that Support Upward Mobility

Chicago, IL—In a major threat to our country's commitment to equal opportunity for all, Senate Republicans on Thursday night voted to pass their 2018 fiscal year budget blueprint—a fiscal framework that continues a partisan budgetary process largely aimed at delivering massive tax cuts to the rich at the expense of low-income families and individuals.

The resolution, which loudly echoes the House and Trump Administration budget proposals, calls for trillions in dollars of tax cuts for corporations and wealthy households to be financed with deep cuts to programs and efforts that support the quality of life and chances at upward mobility of tens of millions of low-income people. **Programs on the chopping block include healthcare, food, housing, and basic assistance, as well as education, job-training, and social services. If implemented, these cuts would cause poverty and hunger to sharply increase, undermine opportunity for millions, and ultimately make our country a less fair and just place.**

Though the suffering would be national in scope, it would mostly unfold in the states. By slashing billions in federal funding from key programs, the Senate GOP budget effectively shifts costs to state governments, putting them in the unenviable position of having to choose who loses critical assistance or support. Far from granting them flexibility, cuts of this magnitude fiscally paralyze state governments while decimating critical services for people in need.

Following Thursday's vote, it appears the House could take up the Senate's framework as early as next week. The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law calls on lawmakers to reject this proposal and any others that put funding for anti-poverty programs in jeopardy. **Instead of giving tax cuts to our country's richest citizens and corporations, our elected leaders should be investing in programs that support equal opportunity and upward mobility for all.**

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The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. We specialize in practical solutions. We advocate for and serve clients directly, while also building the capacity of the nation's legal aid providers to advance justice and opportunity for their clients. www.povertylaw.org

