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Impact of GOP Reconciliation Bill

Congressman Himes has dubbed the GOP Reconciliation Bill “**Wreckonsillyation**” because the cuts “**wrecks**” the idea of fair deficit reduction with cuts that will never become law, a “**silly**” partisan exercise intended only to bolster the extreme demands of the Tea Party wing of the Republican Party.

Here are some of the reasons Congressman Himes opposes the GOP’s **Wreckonsillyation**:

Children

- **Takes food out away from children.** Nearly 300,000 children would lose free or reduced-priced school meals, on top of cuts to food aid at home for 22 million children at a time when one in five children lives in poverty. The bill makes it harder to apply for and receive food aid and also immediately stops additional food aid provided by the Recovery Act. (SNAP/Food Stamps)
- **4.4 million children would lose child care and related assistance.** By eliminating the Social Services Block Grant, the bill eliminates support for low-income parents returning to work, like child care and related assistance for 4.4 million children. Child care assistance is already severely underfunded. In 2011, 22 states had waiting lists for child care assistance. The bill further limits states’ ability to help low-income families that are looking for work in order to become self-sufficient.
- **1.8 million at-risk children would lose child protective services.** By eliminating the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), the bill eliminates efforts to help prevent child abuse and neglect by providing child protective services for 1.8 million at-risk children. SSBG funds play a critical role in augmenting other more restrictive child welfare funding streams. For example, they fill a significant gap in foster care funding for children who cannot be cared for in their own homes and need to be placed in foster care.
- **At least 300,000 children would lose their health insurance coverage.** The Congressional Budget Office estimates that, by repealing states’ Medicaid and CHIP maintenance-of-effort requirements, the bill would increase the number of uninsured children by at least 300,000 in 2015.
- **2.2 million fewer childhood vaccinations would be provided.** By repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund, the bill eliminates funding for FY 2013 slated to provide children vaccinations to prevent childhood diseases, like measles. Eliminating this funding would mean that 2.2 million fewer childhood vaccinations would be provided to America’s children.

- **More than 3 million children would lose the pro-work, pro-family refundable Child Tax Credit in 2013 alone.** Some faith and family groups, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, say that the GOP initiative would deny necessities like food and clothing to children — 4 of 5 of whom are U.S. citizens. The legislation, predominantly harming the Latino community, would deny the Child Tax Credit to taxpayers who have an individual taxpayer identification numbers -- requiring them to provide their Social Security Numbers in order to claim the refundable portion of the child tax credit starting in 2013.

Seniors

- **1.7 million seniors would lose “Meals on Wheels” and other home-based services.** By eliminating the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), the bill eliminates funds that are providing home-based services, such as Meals on Wheels, to 1.7 million seniors. Services for seniors are more dependent on SSBG funds than any other service that the SSBG supports. For example, in FY 2009, SSBG funds accounted for 72 percent of states’ funding for adult day care services, which help seniors to stay in their own homes.

Women

- **326,000 women would not get breast cancer screenings.** By repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund, the bill eliminates funding slated for FY 2013 to provide screenings for breast cancer for uninsured women.
- **284,000 women would not get cervical cancer screenings.** By repealing the Prevention and Public Health Fund, the bill eliminates funding slated for FY 2013 to provide screenings for cervical cancer for uninsured women.

Middle Class & Hard-working Families

- **Weakens the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau** – putting families at risk of the same predatory practices that in part led to the financial crisis. The bill subjects the new consumer protection agency to political pressure, ending the current guaranteed funding and leaving funding to the whims of Congress.
- **Puts our nation at risk of another financial crisis**, by ending our ability to deal with banks that are “too big to fail,” and leaving taxpayers on the hook for any future bank bailouts. The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act put an end to the days of taxpayer-funded bailouts, establishing a process to shut down failing institutions that pose a risk to the financial system and our economy –with costs borne by Wall Street firms and the big banks. The bill eliminates these key reforms that ended taxpayer-financed bailouts for the banks.
- **Reduces food aid to 47 million Americans and eliminates benefits entirely for almost 2 million people.** The bill would cut benefits for a family of four by nearly \$500 over the next 14 months. Nearly half of these families with children have parents who are working. (SNAP/Food Stamps, [Characteristics of SNAP Families by Congressional District](#))