

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 17, 2025

President Donald Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to you today to urge you to honor the promises you made on the campaign trail to lower costs for American families. You promised the American people that you would immediately lower costs, “starting on Day One.”<sup>1</sup> However, weeks into your Presidency, Congressional Republicans are moving forward with legislative plans to increase the cost of living for hardworking Americans.

Congressional Republicans have released their 2025 budget proposals – their blueprints for a large legislative package that they hope to pass in the coming months.<sup>2</sup> Congressional Republicans have also circulated a “menu” of policies they want to include in that budget legislation.<sup>3</sup> But the Republican budget plans do not focus on lowering costs, and in fact will *raise costs* for American families by forcing them to pay more for groceries, health care, education, and caregiving.

1. *Raising food costs.* The Republican budget plans tee up extensive cuts to the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and Meals on Wheels. Republican cuts to SNAP will make it harder for senior citizens, disabled individuals, and working families to afford groceries.<sup>4</sup> Republicans also want to defund meals for poor schoolkids, forcing already-struggling families to shoulder additional costs while grocery prices are skyrocketing, and slash funding for meals for elderly people.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CNN, “Trump pledged to bring down food prices on Day One. Instead, eggs are getting even more expensive,” Alicia Wallace, January 28, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/28/economy/trump-inflation-price-promises/index.html>.

<sup>2</sup> CBS News, “House Republicans release budget plan, with trillions in tax and spending cuts,” Kaia Hubbard, February 12, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/house-republicans-budget-resolution-trump/>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, Budget Payfor Menu, pp. 33-34, <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/28cb85c5ed1f6c52/44e83eb4-full.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, “Republican SNAP Proposals Could Take Food Away From Millions of Low-Income Individuals and Families.” Katie Bergh, Dottie Rosenbaum, and Catlin Nchako, January 13, 2025, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/republican-snap-proposals-could-take-food-away-from-millions-of-low-income>.

<sup>5</sup> Wall Street Journal, “Food Prices Are Rising Again,” Patrick Thomas and Jesse Newman, January 19, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/economy/consumers/food-prices-inflation-bird-flu-weather-230a97a3>; U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, Budget Payfor Menu, pp. 16, 33-34, <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/28cb85c5ed1f6c52/44e83eb4-full.pdf>.

2. *Raising health care costs.* The Republican budget plans also pave the way for 15 Republican proposals to cut Medicare, Medicaid, and Affordable Care Act coverage.<sup>6</sup> These Republican cuts would raise health care costs for over 160 million Americans who rely on these programs to make ends meet and stay healthy, and force the closures of community health centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and doctor's offices across the country.<sup>7</sup> The proposals especially target low-income seniors, children, and people with disabilities.
3. *Raising education costs.* The Republican budget plans set them up to pass cuts to programs that help families afford college, including Pell Grants and income-driven repayment plans.<sup>8</sup> These Republican cuts would hike loan payments for millions of Americans, drive families deeper into debt, and in some cases make it impossible for students to pay for school and achieve the American Dream.<sup>9</sup>
4. *Raising caregiving costs.* The Republican budget plans pave the way to cutting programs that help families care for kids, people with disabilities, and aging loved ones. Large cuts to Medicaid, Head Start, and other essential programs will make it impossible for many working families to live and work with dignity.<sup>10</sup>

The Republican budget plans are deeply troubling. If Congressional Republicans are successful at passing their proposals, it will mean that families will pay more for food, healthcare, education, and caregiving – while Republicans plot more tax cuts for billionaires.<sup>11</sup> We urge you to stand by the promises you made to the American people about lowering costs, including by committing not to sign any legislation that raises their costs.

Sincerely,

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, Budget Payfor Menu, <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/28cb85c5ed1f6c52/44e83eb4-full.pdf>.

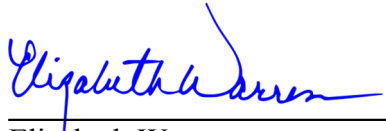
<sup>7</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, "About Us," <https://www.cms.gov/about-cms#:~:text=CMS%20is%20the%20federal%20agency,in%20the%20health%20care%20system.>; Coalition of Strengthen America's Healthcare, "Proposed Medicare Cuts Threaten Patients' Access To Care," March 16, 2024, <https://strengthenhealthcare.org/proposed-medicare-cuts-threaten-patients-access-to-care/>.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, Budget Payfor Menu, pp. 28-31, <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/28cb85c5ed1f6c52/44e83eb4-full.pdf>.

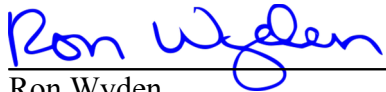
<sup>9</sup> Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, "Payback Time: Easing the Burden of Student Loans," Natalie Cox, October 2017, <https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/payback-time-easing-burden-student-loans>; CNBC, "To pay for Trump's tax cuts, House Republicans could raise student loan bills for millions of borrowers," Annie Nova, February 10, 2025, <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/02/10/student-loan-borrowers-could-see-bills-ballooning-under-gop-proposal.html>.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, Budget Payfor Menu, pp. 16-18, <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/28cb85c5ed1f6c52/44e83eb4-full.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> CBS News, "Paying for Trump's tax cuts could lead to big changes for taxpayers. Here's what could be in store.," Aimee Picchi, January 24, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-tax-cuts-extension-republican-salt-deduction-student-loans/>.



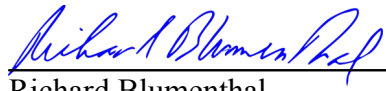
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



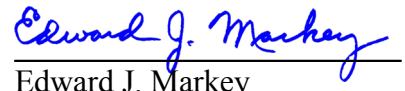
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, and Forestry



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Budget



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



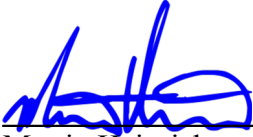
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator




Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator




Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



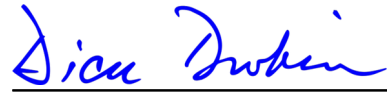
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

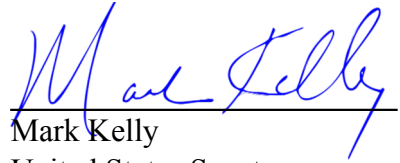


Ruben Gallego  
United States Senator



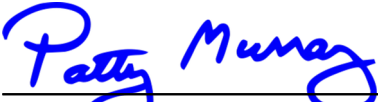
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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



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Patty Murray  
United States Senator



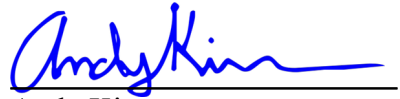
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Adam B. Schiff  
United States Senator



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Angela D. Alsobrooks  
United States Senator



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Andy Kim  
United States Senator