



## Tell Congress: Protect SNAP and Medicaid and improve the Child Tax Credit

The House and Senate are currently in a reconciliation process that will allow them to pass a federal budget without a large majority in Congress. Congressional leadership is working out the framework of a unified budget resolution. This could be done in early April. After that, congressional committees will need to work out the details of what a final bill would look like. We don't know the specifics yet. But we know that the final product will include big tax cuts for the wealthy. This will mean big cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and cost at least \$4.5 trillion.

The current [House budget resolution calls for deep cuts](#) to anti-poverty programs. This includes \$880 billion from the committee that oversees Medicaid and \$230 billion in cuts from the committee governing SNAP. SNAP provides direct assistance to over 40 million Americans. More than half are children ([see state-level fact sheets](#)). Proposals to enact the \$230 billion in food assistance cuts include [more work requirements and changing eligibility](#). These are not acceptable.

Medicaid is a state and federal partnership that funds health care for nearly [80 million children, seniors, and people with disabilities](#). Cuts that cap the amount of federal funds provided to states would force states to increase funding or limit enrollment and benefits. There are also proposals to increase onerous work reporting requirements. This is a [failed policy](#) that does not increase employment but causes people to lose access to health care.

There is some bipartisan consensus to improve the Child Tax Credit (CTC). The current CTC leaves out 17 million children because their parents don't earn enough. Some Republicans suggest improving the CTC by cutting the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which provides support specifically to those with low incomes. The CTC should be improved to reach more families who work in low wage jobs. But cutting the EITC to fund the CTC is not okay. We must not fund anti-poverty programs by cutting other anti-poverty programs.

As advocates we must focus on protecting these programs that are lifelines for individuals experiencing poverty. The message is simple: it is urgent that Congress works to protect and strengthen SNAP and Medicaid and improve the CTC.

More details on SNAP, Medicaid, and CTC: [RESULTS blog](#), [Medicaid State Fact Sheets](#), [RESULTS tax credits leave behind](#), [CTC and EITC policy brief](#), and [CTC laser talk](#).

## Sample call language to Congress in EPIC format

Call your members of Congress and urge them to protect crucial assistance programs that help people survive poverty. Invite others in your network to call their representatives. Find your members of Congress at: <https://results.org/volunteers/legislator-lookup>.

### **Subject: Improve the CTC and don't cut SNAP or Medicaid**

**Engage:** I am deeply concerned about the House budget resolution passed in late February. The current proposals call for shocking cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). At the same time, proposed tax cuts for the wealthy would increase our nation's debt by \$4.5 trillion. I am angry that Congress would even contemplate taking health care and food assistance from people simply to make the rich richer and increase the deficit.

**State problem:** Cuts to SNAP and Medicaid would harm the health of millions of Americans and limit benefits, access, and choice. These programs overwhelmingly support children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities, and those living in rural areas. In many cases, Medicaid and SNAP are their only options to see a doctor or buy food. It is unconscionable that Congress would want to take that away.

**Inform on solutions:** Medicaid and SNAP provide crucial support and do not need to be cut in this budget bill. They can be protected so that they continue to function in their critical role in helping tens of millions of Americans who experience poverty. The Child Tax Credit (CTC) is another critical tool for fighting poverty. It currently leaves 17 million children out of the full credit because their parents don't make enough money. It can be improved and expanded so that more families working in low wage jobs receive the full benefit.

**Call to action:** I urge Congress to reject efforts to cut or restrict SNAP or Medicaid. Cutting these programs to finance tax cuts for the wealthy would be devastating for millions and is morally indefensible. I urge our representatives to protect and expand access to SNAP and Medicaid. I also urge our representatives to improve the CTC by expanding access to families working in low wage jobs. These improvements must not be funded by cutting other anti-poverty programs like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). What are you doing to protect SNAP and Medicaid and improve the CTC?