

TO: Interested Parties

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SUBJECT: MAGA Funding Cuts Hurt the Middle Class and Swing Seat Republicans

On June 3, President Biden signed the Fiscal Responsibility Act into law. Among other measures, the bipartisan bill establishes new limits on discretionary funding for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. Abandoning the contours of that framework, House Republicans turned the process of funding the government for the next fiscal year over to MAGA extremists who have demanded ever more radical cuts to programs Americans rely on to thrive and gain a foothold in America's middle class. Worse yet, this dangerous and unpopular MAGA agenda to gut investments in the American people comes at the same time House Republicans are pushing for yet another round of wasteful corporate tax cuts. This memo highlights some of the key ways House Republicans' radical funding proposals would cut investments in the American people and hurt the middle class.

While the pain these cuts would cause the American people are obvious on their face, they also could be bruising for another key group: swing seat Republicans. While being appointed to the House Appropriations Committee is typically viewed as a feather in a member's cap, particularly for those members who are less senior, the responsibility may turn out to be a political Achilles heel given the influence MAGA extremists have wielded over the process. The Cook Political Report forecasts that 6 of the panel's members – Reps. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ), Julia Letlow (R-LA), Mike Garcia (R-CA), Ken Calvert (R-CA), David Valadao (R-CA), and Ryan Zinke (R-MT) – represent some of the most competitive districts yet have already voted for several of these toxic cuts.

- **Education:** House Republicans' FY2024 funding proposals would deliver a massive blow to education programs from early childhood through college. Their plans cut \$750 million from Head Start's FY23 funding levels, which would result in [51,000](#) fewer children being served by the program, including [thousands](#) in highly competitive Congressional Districts. They would also eliminate funding for Preschool Development Grants, which currently are funded to the tune of \$315 million. Among the House Republicans' most radical ideas is an 80 percent cut to funding for Title I schools, which serve America's low-income students. The massive reduction in funding would put [224,000](#) teaching positions at risk. Their funding plan would also make devastating cuts to programs that help students access higher education and complete their studies, including by eliminating Federal Work Study for [660,000](#) students, need-based financial aid (the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant) for [1.7 million](#) students, and campus-based child care programs for student parents. They also would eliminate job training programs for [126,000](#) youth and [294,000](#) adults. As members of the Labor-HHS-Education (LHHS) Subcommittee, Reps. Ciscomani and Letlow have already voted in support of these cuts.
- **Health:** House Republicans' funding proposals would exacerbate ongoing public health crises – including by slashing funding to fight the opioid and mental health epidemics–

and devastate the health of women and families. Their proposals include harsh cuts to the National Institutes of Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, which would jeopardize efforts to develop therapeutics and vaccines for diseases like cancer and prepare for future pandemics. Finally, they propose eliminating all funding for the Title X Family Planning Program and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program while cutting the Office on Women's Health by more than 70 percent. Their funding plan would also undermine the food security and nutrition of families by slashing the Women's Infants, and Children (WIC) program by [12 percent](#), cutting support "to buy fruits and vegetables for [5 million](#) pregnant and postpartum participants and... children under 5." Reps. Ciscomani and Letlow have voted in support of all of these cuts. Not serving on LHHS, Reps. Garcia, Calvert, Valadao, and Zinke have, to date, voted only for the cuts to the WIC program, which were passed on a party line vote by the full committee earlier this year.

- **Public Safety:** House Republicans' funding proposal would make painful cuts to programs and law enforcement agencies designed to keep Americans safe. Accommodating MAGA leader Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene's plea to defund the FBI, the House Republican funding plan cuts over \$415 million in funding for FBI salaries and expenses. The plan also cuts \$320 million from US Attorneys, which will require cutting federal prosecutor positions. Their plan also makes devastating cuts to anti-violence programs, including eliminating Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Grants (currently funded at \$50 million for FY23) as well as multiple programs designed to combat hate crimes (currently funded at a combined \$35 million). Finally, the GOP funding proposals eliminate funding for gun violence research and bars funding for critical measures designed to curb gun violence, including a prohibition on illegal and untraceable ghost guns, gun buyback programs, and the implementation of red flag laws or extreme risk protection orders to keep guns out of the hands of people who may be a danger to themselves or others. Rep. Garcia has voted in support of all of these cuts. The proposal awaits action by the full House Appropriations Committee after August recess.
- **Infrastructure and Housing:** House Republicans' funding proposal would also make devastating cuts to transportation, infrastructure, and housing programs. Among the largest cuts includes a \$7.2 billion funding reduction for the Department of Transportation, including a 64 percent cut in funding for Amtrak, and a 67 percent cut to the HOME Program, the sole federal program dedicated to affordable housing construction. These cuts will make it harder and more expensive to bring goods to market, disrupt commercial and personal travel, and exacerbate the nation's already-inadequate supply of affordable housing. House Republicans' plan to slash infrastructure funding would also undercut an investment that a recent story from the Washington Post notes is playing a decisive role in [boosting America's economic growth](#). All 6 Republicans in competitive districts have voted for these cuts.
- **Clean Energy and Environmental Protection:** House Republicans' funding plan would slash funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by 39 percent, or nearly \$4 billion, from FY23 levels. Among the EPA cuts [include](#) "zero[ing out] funding for

environmental justice work.” The proposal would also eliminate \$7.8 billion in funding for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which was funded by the Inflation Reduction Act to create clean energy jobs, deploy zero emissions technologies in historically marginalized communities, and fight climate change. According to a CAP Action [analysis](#), at least 100,000 new clean energy jobs in Republican congressional districts could be at risk if the IRA’s investments and incentives are rolled back or repealed. The House Republican plan also cuts funding for the Clean Water and the Drinking Water state revolving funds by [nearly two-thirds](#). All 6 Republicans in competitive districts have voted for these cuts.

Why drive an extreme agenda that will devastate middle class and working families? To pay for yet another wasteful tax scam. In June, House Republicans began working on a new tax plan that would double down on corporate tax cuts and, during their three year extension, add more than \$200 billion to the deficit. As a recent CAP column [explains](#), experts predict that under the proposal the top 1% would get 58 percent of the total tax break given to U.S. taxpayers, an average tax cut of \$16,550. The bottom 20 percent of households, meanwhile, would receive 1 percent of the benefit and an average tax cut of just \$10. Further, this latest tax scam would also provide a full third of the tax cut’s benefit to foreign investors. If this were not outrageous enough, House Republicans’ funding bills would cut [\\$68 billion](#) from IRS enforcement and operations support, allowing ultra-wealthy tax cheats to avoid paying what they owe while [making it harder for everyday Americans to file their tax returns online for free](#). MAGA Republicans pretend to embrace populist economic policies but their funding proposals reveal the truth: MAGA Republicans have married the GOP’s long-standing support for the wealthy and corporations with extreme cuts to programs middle class families depend on.

President Biden has worked across the aisle to put the nation on path to grow our economy by growing the middle class through critical investments in the American people. MAGA Republicans, however, are willing to pull the rug out from under America’s middle class to enact their extreme ideological agenda. Democrats and their allies must educate the American people about the dangerous cuts House Republicans are championing and make clear that their extremism puts our economic growth at risk.