



## CALL TO ACTION – October 15

# PROTECT OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

### BUDGET BATTLE STARTS NOW!!!!

Background: For the next seven weeks, until December 8, our goal is to keep a laser-focus on the upcoming federal budget. Three times this year, we stopped Congress from gutting the ACA. Now the federal budget is our new battle, one that we must and CAN win.

The 2018 budget is the vehicle that Republicans are using to achieve a lot of their awful objectives: including the Trump Tax Cuts for the Rich, devastating cuts to health care and environmental protections, defunding Children's Health Insurance Program, degrading women's health care, the abandonment of Puerto Rico, termination of DACA, housing and heating subsidies for the poor, cuts to education, and many other problems. Their budget will be paid for by taking away from Medicaid, Medicare, and other human basics.

The House has already passed their version of the budget and handed it on to the Senate. Only 51 votes will be needed to pass it in the Senate, that is where we must focus our resistance. The current federal spending authorization expires on December 8, if Congress does not pass a budget or a new continuing resolution by then, the federal government will shut down. The threat of a shutdown is our leverage in this battle, our MOCs have to be willing to risk that in order to prevent the Republicans from advancing their agenda.

- We expect that the Republicans will want to use the special process called "reconciliation" that allows them to pass a bill through the Senate with only 51 votes.
- The first step in reconciliation is passing a budget resolution. The budget resolution has the "instructions" that set up the reconciliation process, but it also has spending levels and other policy guidance on mandatory and discretionary spending.
- Then the second step will be passing the Tax Cut package, which will have been developed just like their health care plan - largely in secret, with few or no Committee hearings or even public scrutiny of drafts.

It is vital that our Senators understand that we view this fight as our highest priority, and that we expect them to use all possible leverage, including a government shutdown to prevent passage of a budget with so many harmful provisions and passage of tax cuts for the rich. We need to send this message consistently and repeatedly. Until December 8, or until the Republicans relent and agree to a bipartisan budget process, our message needs to stay the same. Resist the Republican budget and Trump Tax Cuts for the Rich.

**ACTION:** Call both of our Senators, Murray and Cantwell, and let them know that opposition to this budget and these tax cuts should be their highest priority. Senator Maria Cantwell: (253) 572-2281  
Senator Patty Murray: (253) 572-3636

Script: Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a member of Olympia Indivisible. I am calling to ask Senator (Murray, Cantwell) to use every possible means to oppose the 2018 Republican budget, including the threat of a government shutdown. The Republican budget is one of the most hurtful in decades in many ways, and provides the first step in trying to pass Trump's Tax Cuts for the Rich with only 51 votes. Thank you for your help.

# SAVE THE ACA

## Resist Trump's Latest Executive Order - Health Care Sabotage

**Summary:** On October 12, Trump issued an executive order (EO) designed to destabilize health care markets, and followed that up with another announcement that will lead to higher premiums and more uninsured Americans.

- After months of watching the Republicans fail to pass a TrumpCare bill, Trump decided to take matters into his own hands by undermining health care markets through executive action.
- While his first EO will take time to implement, with new regulations expected by the end of the year, it will drastically reduce the number of Americans enrolled in plans that are covered by the ACA's consumer protections. Businesses will have more leeway to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions.
- This first order also expands the time limit on short-term plans from three months to a year, making it clear that Trump wants to siphon off healthy consumers from the ACA markets.
- The result of these changes will be that more young, healthy consumers enroll in these skimpy plans, driving up the cost of more comprehensive ACA-compliant plans. The end result will be two insurance markets: one for relatively healthy people that offers cheap but inadequate coverage, and one for sick people that offers prohibitively expensive coverage.
- Finally, the White House announced the administration would no longer make cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments to insurers, which help reduce out-of-pocket expenses like co-pays and deductibles. This will hurt low- and middle-income Americans, and could result in insurers pulling out of health care markets—with no time left for others to fill those gaps. It will immediately result in higher premiums and fewer people covered. The Congressional Budget Office found that cutting off CSR payments would result in premiums spiking by 20%, 1 million fewer people having insurance, and a \$194 billion increase in the deficit over the next decade.
- Democrats have been negotiating with Republicans on a bipartisan "stabilization bill" that would include a guarantee that CSR payments continue. But merely guaranteeing those payments is not enough.

### Our MoCs:

- [Sen. Murray Statement on President Trump's Latest, Worst Step to Create Trumpcare by Sabotage](#)
- [Senator Cantwell Statement on President Trump's Decision to Halt ACA Payments, Throw Insurance Markets into Chaos](#)
- [Congressman Heck's Statement on EO to End Cost-Sharing Reductions for Health Insurance](#)

**ACTION:** Ask our MoCs to stop Trump's sabotage of the ACA: ensure that all health plans have guaranteed protections and that CSR payments continue.

- Senator Murray Script: Hello. My name is [name] and I'm calling from [area of state]. Please thank Senator Murray for her continuing bipartisan efforts to find common ground on the Affordable Care Act. I am asking Senator Murray to commit to supporting a stabilization bill that will both guarantee the CSR payments, and close loopholes that allow association health plans and short-term plans to offer inadequate coverage.
- Senator Cantwell Script: Hello. My name is [name] and I'm calling from [area of state]. I am asking Senator Cantwell to commit to supporting a stabilization bill that will both guarantee the CSR payments, and close loopholes that allow association health plans and short-term plans to offer inadequate coverage.

# READY FOR MORE?

**Read This Week's Research Report and find other important actions to take this week.**

Topics include:

**No War with Iran: Stop Trump from Ripping up the Iran Deal; Preventing Gun Violence; Trump Continues His Attack on Immigrants – Defend DACA; Congress Needs to Reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program; Prevent Trump's Sabotage of the Russian Investigation.**

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THESE TOPICS IN THIS WEEK'S FABULOUS RESEARCH REPORT: [http:// www.olympiaindivisible.com/archives.html](http://www.olympiaindivisible.com/archives.html)

# COMING SOON

**Oct. 20 Friday (6-8 pm)**

**Olympia Indivisible Members TGIF Gathering!**

Bring your ideas for making America better! Three Magnets Brewery 600 Franklin St. Olympia.