



## NEWS RELEASE

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33 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06510  
Voice: 203-498-4240  
Fax: 203-498-4242  
[www.ctkidslink.org](http://www.ctkidslink.org)

Contacts: Ellen Scalettar, Senior Policy Fellow, CT Voices for Children, (203) 498-4240

### **State Group Calls on House Delegation to Oppose Federal Cuts to Vital Programs**

#### ***U.S. House Expected to Vote Oct 20 to Increase Cuts to \$50 Billion To Help Pay for New Tax Cuts of \$70 Billion***

(Hartford CT) Today, Connecticut advocates called on the state's U.S. House delegation to vote "no" on a new federal budget plan that would require deeper cuts in health care, nutrition, and other key services for vulnerable people, while providing for new, costly tax cuts for the wealthy. In addition, this budget plan would actually worsen the deficit, not improve it. The House of Representatives is expected to vote on this new budget plan as soon as Thursday, October 20.

Connecticut Voices for Children, a research-based child advocacy organization, criticized the proposed budget, which makes \$50 billion in cuts to programs to help pay for \$70 billion in new tax cuts that primarily benefit the wealthiest Americans. The cuts are targeted to vital programs for low- and moderate-income Americans, including Medicaid, Food Stamps, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and Supplemental Security Income.

"Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the tremendous benefits of the Medicaid and Food Stamp programs as first responders for those affected by a disaster. The last thing we should be doing after this experience is plunging other families deeper into poverty by cutting Medicaid, food stamps, and other critical necessities," said Ellen Scalettar, Senior Policy Fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children.

Here in Connecticut, the programs targeted for federal budget cuts provide critical services to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people. The Medicaid program provides health care coverage for 398,000 people in Connecticut, including more than 200,000 children. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides basic income for 15,900 elderly people and people with severe disabilities in the state. 168,000 working families in Connecticut receive the Earned Income Tax Credit, bringing \$263 million in federal funds into low-income families and urban center economies. And each year, 193,000 people in Connecticut put food on the table with the help of the Food Stamp program. The new House budget plan may also call for deeper cuts in a range of "domestic discretionary" programs, such as Head Start, housing assistance, environmental protection, and K-12 education.

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“There is no shared sacrifice here. This budget asks for no sacrifice at all by the wealthy, while requiring the sacrifice of health care and food assistance by the poor,” commented Shelley Geballe, President of Connecticut Voices for Children. “It also asks for sacrifice by our children and grandchildren, who will face the burden of our ever increasing debt.”

Connecticut Voices for Children ([www.ctkidslink.org](http://www.ctkidslink.org)) is a research-based policy and advocacy organization committed to promoting leadership, policy change, and investment on behalf of all of Connecticut’s children and youth.

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