

TO: National and International Union Presidents  
Principal Officers of State Federations and Central and Area Labor Councils

FROM: Richard L. Trumka

RE: Highlights of President Trump's Proposed FY 2018 Budget

DATE: May 31, 2017

President Trump released his FY 2018 budget last week – outlining in detail the administration's priorities and policies for the coming year. Attached for your information are highlights of particular importance to working people.

The president's budget provides about \$6 trillion (over 10 years) in tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations. At the same time, it cuts \$1.7 trillion from Medicaid, benefits and pay for federal employees, Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, and other benefit programs and \$1.6 trillion from education, job training, worker safety and health, and other non-defense programs benefiting working families. Excluding Social Security and Medicare, the Trump budget takes domestic spending as a share of the economy to its lowest level in 60 years, and after ten years, to levels not seen since the Hoover Administration.

This budget is the most significant betrayal yet of the working people President Trump claims to support. It is a blueprint for how to rig the rules of the economy to favor the wealthy and corporations, while taking away our freedoms and protections at work.

The proposals presented in this budget defund core programs that are vital to working families. Breaking Trump's promise from the campaign trail, this budget slashes \$1.5 trillion from Medicaid, \$59 billion from Medicare and up to \$64 billion from Social Security. It strips funding for workplace safety research by 40% and totally wipes out health and safety training and investigations of chemical accidents, putting more working people at higher risk of dying on the job. It starves our children of the education they deserve by cutting \$10.6 billion in education and \$143 billion in student loan funds that help students afford college. And it forces a 6% pay cut on the people who make our government work.

The ultimate insult of this budget is that all of these sacrifices are levied on working families in order to justify massive tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations.

<https://aflcio.org/press/releases/president-trumps-budget-betrays-working-people>