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TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S "AMERICA FIRST" BUDGET PUTS OLDER AMERICANS LAST

The budget would do nothing to reduce the deficit, but cuts \$54 billion in discretionary spending and would either eliminate or significantly undermine programs that have proven vital to older Americans.

Programs at the Department of Health and Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is hit particularly hard in the Trump Administration's Budget. HHS -- which supports everything from medical research to drug safety to training the health care workforce -- faces more than \$15 billion in cuts, which is a nearly 18 percent decrease in funding. Older Americans Act programs, including caregiver supports, home-delivered and congregate meals, and counseling and referral services, depend on HHS resources to meet the needs of vulnerable older Americans across the country. These services are threatened by dramatic budget cuts. Some specific cuts have been announced. They include:

❖ **Eliminating Programs that Help Seniors Stay Independent and Active**

Maintaining independence is a crucial aspect of healthy aging, but the Trump Administration's Budget would eliminate programs that allow older Americans to remain independent and age at home. For example, President Trump would eliminate the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program that provides help covering energy costs to almost 7 million households, nearly one-third of which include an adult age 60 or older.¹ Helping older Americans who need assistance to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer is important to maintaining their safety and health.

❖ **Stalling Health Research**

America's population is rapidly aging but the Administration's Budget would slow medical advances by drastically reducing our commitment to medical research. As baby boomers age and concerns about the personal and financial impact of diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, and heart disease grow, now is not the time to dial back our investment in research. Yet, the Trump Administration's Budget proposes a nearly 20 percent cut to the National Institutes of Health, which would take \$5.8 billion away from medical researchers on the front-lines searching for cures. The Trump Administration recently announced that cuts to NIH should begin even sooner -- in 2017. The Administration proposes cutting NIH this year at the same time they are directing resources to build a wall along the country's southern border. This is inconsistent with bipartisan efforts in Congress to expand investment in medical research through the Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations process and the enactment of the 21st Century Cures Act.

❖ **Eliminating Health Care Workforce Training Programs**

With more than 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 every day, the demand for a well-trained health care workforce to meet their needs will continue to grow. Rather than continue to support the development and training of nurses and other health professionals to help meet the needs of older Americans, the Administration's Budget proposal would slash \$403 million from health professions and nursing training programs. These cuts are inconsistent with the goal of ensuring that people have the care they need as they age.

Programs in Departments Across the Federal Government

The Administration's Budget eliminates the Department of Labor's Senior Community Service Employment Program, a community service and work-based job training program for older Americans. It also eliminates the Senior Corps Program through the Corporation for National and Community Service, which helps Americans over 55 give back to vulnerable communities through service programs such as the Foster Grandparents Program. Withdrawing these community supports will undermine older Americans' opportunities to contribute to the workforce and their communities. The Administration's Budget also would eliminate the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant, which communities can use to supplement other resources and support a range of services, such as food banks and senior centers.



Meeting with members of Meals on Wheels of Northeastern Pennsylvania, one of the vital programs that could be impacted by cuts to HHS and HUD.

¹ Department of Health and Human Services, *Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program: Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2014*, https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocs/fy14_liheap_rtc_final.pdf