

Eshoo Opposes Budget Reconciliation Act

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WASHINGTON, DC -- The House Republican Majority yesterday forced \$50 billion in budget cuts through the House of Representatives, passing the Reconciliation Spending Cuts Act by only two votes. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, voted against the legislation.

"Republicans have slashed critical funding for child support enforcement, student loans, healthcare for children, nursing home care for seniors, and food stamps. This has been done in the name of funding hurricane recovery and deficit reduction, but it is neither. What drives this legislation are tax cuts." said Eshoo. "The tax cuts deliver almost 80% of their benefits to the top 3% of the population. And, to add insult to injury, they're not even fully paid for. Instead, they pile more debt on the mountain of national debt."

The bill includes the following cuts:

- \$11.4 billion from Medicaid.
- \$14.3 billion from student loan programs.
- \$4.9 billion from child support enforcement.
- \$796 million from food stamps.
- \$577 billion from foster care assistance.

The National Council of Churches USA carefully dissected this budget, and wrote the following to every Member of Congress:

"The role of government is to protect its people and work for the common good. This is not the time for a budget reconciliation process. To do so is not only unjust, it's a sin. It violates all the fundamental Christian principles of loving thy neighbor, caring for the poor and showing mercy. As religious leaders this is a violation that is unacceptable to us. How is it that we show mercy for oil millionaires and not hurricane survivors? We urge you to change this destructive course of action for the sake of our nation and for generations to come."

The bill passed with a vote of 217 to 215. Rep. Eshoo voted against it.

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