



February 11, 2025

Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE NO on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025—the first step toward more tax cuts for billionaires, paid for by everyone else. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA’s report card for the 119th Congress.

Many of the cuts the resolution contemplates threaten the public schools that educate 9 out of 10 students. Over the long term, it is counterproductive to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations by slashing investments in our students—America’s future leaders and workforce.

In particular, we urge you to oppose proposals to reduce **student aid** by:

- Erecting barriers to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), including limiting eligibility
- Limiting or denying access to affordable, income-driven repayment plans
- Capping or eliminating multiple programs that provide loans to attend graduate and professional schools
- Making it harder for victims of unscrupulous institutions to escape student loan debt
- Increasing taxes on scholarships, fellowships, and student loan debt
- Slashing and capping Pell grants

Another area of concern is funding for **school meals**. Any cuts—including from limiting school coverage under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or requiring verification of family income—would result in students going hungry and burdensome, duplicative paperwork for schools. Further, many students and education support professionals participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), our nation’s first line of defense against hunger, which could also be slashed.

Children’s healthcare appears to be on the chopping block as well. The impact could be profound: 38 million children are covered by Medicaid and CHIP, and they comprise 47.4 percent of total Medicaid and CHIP enrollment. Basic healthcare as well as school-based services are in jeopardy—along with children’s futures. One study found that increases in Medicaid eligibility at birth led to improved reading test scores in 4th and 8th grades.

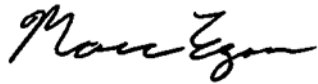
Meanwhile, ramped up **immigration enforcement** is traumatizing students all across America. Every day, educators encounter students terrified by threats of mass deportation. They worry that their

loved ones will be targeted and their families broken up. Some refuse to leave their homes—even to go to school.

Most Americans do not want to defund and destroy public schools. To the contrary, they share our view that every student deserves opportunities, resources, and support to reach their full potential—no matter where they live, the color of their skin, or how much their family earns. Public schools exist to provide those opportunities.

For all these reasons, we urge you to oppose the FY2025 budget resolution. It is the first step toward more tax giveaways to billionaires and corporations funded on the backs of America's students, families, and workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Egan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association