

Potential 'Reconciliation' Bill Threatens Public Education



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The details of the GOP majority's reconciliation bill remain in flux, but the big picture is clear: massive tax giveaways for billionaires, paid for by everyone else. Support for vulnerable students would wither while a voucher-inspired scheme diverts taxpayer dollars from public to private and religious schools. Here's just some of what is planned.

VOUCHERS

- ▶ Tax credit voucher scheme modeled after the Educational Choice for Children Act (S. 292/H.R. 817)
- ▶ Dollar-for-dollar reductions in federal taxes for "charitable" contributions ultimately used to pay tuition at private and religious schools
- ▶ To cover the cost—\$100 billion over 10 years—proponents are working to slash public school funding

HIGHER EDUCATION

- ▶ Hamstring and implement restrictive barriers to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)
- ▶ Reduce access and affordability of income-driven student loan repayment plans
- ▶ Cap or eliminate loans to attend graduate and professional schools
- ▶ Make it harder for victims of unscrupulous institutions to escape student loan debt

SCHOOL MEALS

- ▶ Funding for school meals could be cut by at least \$12 billion by limiting schools covered by the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and requiring recipients of school meals to verify family income
- ▶ Result: millions of students go hungry and burdensome paperwork for school food service professionals
- ▶ Many students and education support professionals also participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which could be cut by \$30 billion or more

CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE / MEDICAID

- ▶ Medicaid/CHIP likely to be cut in multiple ways—number eligible, breadth of coverage, etc.
- ▶ Cutting the federal share of funding, another option, shifts costs to states
- ▶ 38 million children covered by Medicaid and CHIP comprise 47.4 percent of total Medicaid and CHIP enrollment

IMMIGRATION

- ▶ Drive up fees for immigration services, possibly including naturalization
- ▶ Increase funding for the White House deportation machine, which could include immigration enforcement in public schools
- ▶ Militarize the border and end any possibility of asylum seekers, including unaccompanied minors, seeking safety in our country