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July 2, 2025

**Vote "NO" on the H.R. 1 Reconciliation Bill and Reject Civil Rights Harms to Millions**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 240 national civil and human rights advocacy organizations, we write in strong opposition to H.R. 1, as amended by the Senate, and urge you to vote "NO" on this measure. We had hoped the Congress would take a different path — one that rejected the harmful priorities of the House-passed H. Con. Res. 14, and now the Senate-amended H.R 1, in order to center the basic needs of everyday people. Instead, however, the Congress has used reconciliation to double down on a dangerous and short-sighted agenda, prioritizing tax breaks for the wealthy while slashing vital programs that protect civil rights and promote health, education, and economic opportunity.

Today, the House can choose to correct the deeply inequitable framework advanced throughout the reconciliation process, or it can continue to boost funding for punitive immigration enforcement, undermine access to education, strip away civil rights safeguards across multiple sectors, and advance massive cuts to programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and student financial aid — programs that millions of Americans, especially communities of color and low-income families, rely on.

Specially, H.R.1, as amended by the Senate:

**Makes deep cuts to Medicaid, which Republican senators hope constituents will "get over," despite such cuts eliminating a lifeline and critical care that benefits millions of Americans.** The Senate's Medicaid cuts go further than the House bill, continuing the largest cuts to Medicaid in American history and promising to devastate the health and financial security of millions of Americans, including children, families, seniors, people with disabilities, rural communities, and their hospitals. These historic cuts would disproportionately harm communities of color, nearly a third of whom rely on Medicaid for lifesaving care, including half of all children of color. Medicaid provides access to affordable medications and treatment, mental health services, and preventive care that help communities stay healthy. Slashing Medicaid to finance \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy and large corporations is not only fiscally irresponsible, but it is also morally indefensible. Medicaid is a cornerstone of access and equity in our health care system, covering a quarter of all Americans. Additionally, the bill makes cuts and changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that would make it more difficult for millions of low-income

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people to obtain Marketplace coverage. These cruel and unnecessary cuts to Medicaid and the ACA, including the addition of harmful red tape and bureaucratic requirements that will make it harder for people to access desperately needed health care, will threaten the health of people in every district and community across the country. Many of these cuts would be achieved by shifting unbearable substantial new costs and requirements to state and local governments.

**Defunds Planned Parenthood, which will devastate access to essential health care for millions of people across the country.** Planned Parenthood health centers provide critical, often lifesaving services like cancer screenings, birth control, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, and general wellness care. Planned Parenthood reaches people who face systemic barriers to care, including those in rural, low-income, and underserved communities. The majority of Planned Parenthood patients rely on Medicaid and other federal and state programs to access care. Cutting off funding would not only close health centers, leaving many of these patients with nowhere to turn for essential care, but would also deepen health disparities and overwhelm an already strained health care system. In fact, Planned Parenthood's role in preventative care reduces long term health care costs and helps people maintain their ability to work, care for families, and contribute to their communities. Even though Medicaid funds are not used for abortion other than in rare exceptions, Medicaid funding is being used to target Planned Parenthood health centers and block people who rely on Medicaid from getting care at these trusted health centers. The attack on Planned Parenthood is not about fiscal responsibility; it is about advancing an extreme agenda that harms communities across this nation.

**Doubles down on imposing cruel, shortsighted, and unprecedented cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which would upend access to food for millions of low-income families, children, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, rural communities, and people of color.** These cuts, also aimed at financing tax breaks for the wealthiest households and corporations, would gut a vital program that helps more than 40 million people and disproportionately impacts communities already facing economic hardship. SNAP improves overall health outcomes, bolsters local economies, and helps close the wealth gap. Whether through slashing benefits, restricting eligibility, or shifting costs to states, the result would be the same: more hunger, more hardship, and greater inequality. SNAP is one of the most effective tools we have to address hunger in our communities, with nearly one in five children depending on it for daily nutrition. Any cuts to SNAP will jeopardize the ability of individuals and families to put food on their tables.

**Continues to block as many as 20 million children from receiving the full Child Tax Credit (CTC) because their parents' earnings are too low or because one of their parents does not have a Social Security number.** This legislation, which decimates programs and services that families rely on while giving tax handouts to corporations and billionaires, fails to expand the CTC to benefit kids whose families are struggling the most. While both the House and Senate reconciliation bills propose a modest expansion of the CTC for families with moderate and high incomes, they do nothing to improve this vital tax credit for millions of children who would be left out from receiving the full credit amount because their families' incomes are too low. Additionally, H.R.1, as amended by the Senate, eliminates eligibility for about 2 million children who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents if one of their parents does not have a Social Security number.

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**Significantly undermines college affordability and student borrower protections, particularly for students with middle-to-lower incomes who already face steep financial barriers to higher education.** H.R.1, as amended by the Senate, will push families toward riskier private loans that are inaccessible to many by eliminating the Grad PLUS loan program and imposing new restrictions on the Parent PLUS loan program. The bill also weakens or eliminates essential safeguards, including deferment options for borrowers facing economic hardship or unemployment and critical relief mechanisms like borrower defense to repayment and closed school discharge, which are tools that have provided redress to students defrauded by their institutions or impacted by school closures. The provisions would saddle millions of borrowers with unaffordable debt, diminish access to higher education, and limit the social and economic mobility that college is meant to provide. The bill's limits on graduate and parent borrowing would further push working families and students towards private loans, and its dismantling of consumer protections would not only jeopardize students' futures but also undermine the development of a strong and diverse workforce essential to a thriving economy.

**Creates voucher schemes that undermine funding for public education to subsidize private school tuition.** Proposals such as the Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA) provide tax breaks to wealthy filers in order to prop up private school voucher schemes, avoiding the accountability and nondiscrimination obligations that come with public funding. Not only do these schemes undermine funding for the public schools on which 90 percent of children rely, but they also redirect federal funding without providing the protections students are entitled to in public schools. These hugely unpopular schemes have been repeatedly rejected by voters at the ballot box and even struck down by the Senate parliamentarian — yet lawmakers keep finding new loopholes to bring them back, all to hand out tax breaks to billionaires at the expense of public education.

**Invests billions of dollars to create a mass deportation machine that will trample on civil rights and civil liberties.** The administration has already used wartime authorities to lock up hundreds of people overseas without due process and has planned to detain tens of thousands of immigrants at Guantanamo Bay and other military bases. It has revoked visas and locked up students purely on the basis of speech, in gross violation of the First Amendment. The administration wants to lock up countless more immigrants in facilities that are overcrowded and inhumane, further fueling the growth and profit of the private prison industry that benefits from the mass incarceration. At the same time, it wants to dramatically expand ICE's digital surveillance programs. Allocating billions of dollars to detention and deportation will not increase national security but will instead institutionalize fear, erode civil rights and civil liberties, and inflict lasting harm on individuals and communities.

**Creates a new regressive and discriminatory remittance tax that targets immigrant workers.** H.R.1, as amended by the Senate, imposes a new 3.5 percent tax on remittances, or individual transfers of money outside of the country. Remittances are most commonly sent by low- to moderate-income immigrants, particularly those of Latino or Asian descent. While H.R.1, as amended by the Senate, attempts to address concerns about the remittance tax by applying it to both citizens and non-citizens and exempting transfers made through bank accounts and credit cards, the tax still targets cash and money order transfers, which are methods widely used by low-income immigrant communities and low-income people in general. This

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new tax would continue to impose a disproportionate burden on immigrant workers and their families, impose needless regulatory burdens on companies that provide transfer services, and drive consumers toward informal or unregulated money transfer methods that have a higher risk of fraud and other unlawful activity.

**Furthermore, if Congress had its way, it would use reconciliation to further gut protections for working families and communities in service of an extreme, anti-civil rights agenda, all to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.** From gutting the critical work of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and leaving millions vulnerable to abuse in the financial marketplace, to imposing cruel Medicaid cuts that punish states for providing health care to immigrants, the policies the Congress has sought to impose through reconciliation are as dangerous as they are far-reaching. Congress has even attempted to weaken the power of federal courts by making it harder for them to enforce injunctions, including a provision that requires courts to set exorbitant and prohibitive bonds, shutting the courthouse doors to all but the wealthiest. But again, that is what reconciliation has proved to be about — benefiting the wealthiest. These provisions are a clear warning of what is possible if we let our guard down. As the reconciliation bill continues to advance, we will remain vigilant and continue to oppose any last-minute efforts to revive or insert these harmful policies that would inflict generational harm on our democracy, public health, and economic stability.

**Finally, we continue to urge members not to advance a reconciliation bill, or any other budget or appropriations measure, until the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is thoroughly investigated and reined in.** DOGE continues to operate with alarming secrecy and unauthorized access to sensitive personal data and use of AI systems from various agencies across the federal government. Federal courts have already issued injunctions curbing some of DOGE's overreach, citing violations of privacy laws and potential harm to millions of people, and Congress should intervene as well. Until DOGE's activities are stopped, made fully transparent, and held accountable, proceeding with reconciliation legislation risks further compromising people's privacy and undermining congressional budget authority and public trust. Congress must ensure that taxpayer dollars and personal data are protected from misuse before moving forward with any fiscal measures.

By using the reconciliation process to gut essential programs and services that people in every state and district rely on for essential health care, nutrition, education, and other basic needs, the House is turning its back on the people it is meant to serve. Rather than correcting this deeply harmful approach, the Congress has doubled down on the misguided priority to take vital resources away from the 99 percent to give tax cuts to the 1 percent. The Congress is failing all of us as it harms communities, denies civil and human rights, deepens disparities, and abandons those most in need. The Congress must do better.

**For these reasons, we urge you to reject H.R.1, as amended by the Senate, and vote "NO" on the measure. The Leadership Conference will score the House vote in our Voting Record for the 119th Congress.** If you have any questions, please be in touch with Kanya Bennett, managing director of government affairs, at [bennett@civilrights.org](mailto:bennett@civilrights.org).

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Sincerely,



Jesselyn McCurdy  
Executive Vice President of Government Affairs