



March 25, 2015

## SUPPORT HOUSE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET ALTERNATIVE

Dear Representative:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States, we write to express our support for the Fiscal Year 2016 budget proposal offered by Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). We urge you and your colleagues to support this budget alternative rather than passing a resolution that attempts to balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable Americans and hides the true costs of proposed cuts.

The Leadership Conference believes that the Democratic budget alternative would stimulate economic growth for all Americans, and help many of the diverse communities we represent, many of them low-income, which been greatly harmed by the effects of sequestration. We believe that our nation needs an economy where there is more broadly shared prosperity, and one in which programs helping vulnerable groups like young children, seniors, low-income families, individuals with disabilities, students, the unemployed, and the uninsured are not compromised in the name of tax breaks for the wealthy. The House Democratic budget would lift the sequester and offers key investments in the communities who need the most help, including improvements to the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

As many low- and middle-income families begin to regain their footing after the economic downturn, it is imperative that we not deal another blow to these same hard-working Americans by increasing their tax burden. In contrast to the Price budget, the House Democratic budget alternative protects funding for programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), programs that are critical to the health and well-being of many of the communities the Leadership Conference represents. The budget alternative also includes increased funding for Head Start and other early childhood programs, investments that are critical to lifting future generations out of poverty. And unlike the Price budget, the Democratic budget alternative would not cut Pell grant funding but instead includes significant funding, enabling more young people to afford a college education.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the House Democrat's alternative FY2016 budget proposal. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Chatterjee, Senior Counsel at (202) 466-3648.

Sincerely,

Wade Henderson  
President & CEO

  
Nancy Zirkin  
Executive Vice President

### Officers

#### Chair

Judith L. Lichtman  
National Partnership for  
Women & Families

#### Vice Chairs

Jacqueline Pata  
National Congress of American Indians  
Thomas A. Saenz  
Mexican American Legal  
Defense and Educational Fund  
Hilary Shelton  
NAACP

#### Treasurer

Lee A. Saunders  
American Federation of State,  
County & Municipal Employees

#### Board of Directors

Barbara Arnwine  
Lawyers' Committee for  
Civil Rights Under Law  
Cornell William Brooks  
NAACP  
Lily Eskelsen Garcia  
National Education Association  
Marcia D. Greenberger  
National Women's Law Center  
Chad Griffin  
Human Rights Campaign  
Linda D. Hallman  
AAUW  
Mary Kay Henry  
Service Employees International Union  
Sherrilyn Ifill  
NAACP Legal Defense and  
Educational Fund, Inc.  
Jo Ann Jenkins  
AARP  
Michael B. Keegan  
People for the American Way  
Elisabeth MacNamara  
League of Women Voters of the  
United States  
Marc Morial  
National Urban League  
Mee Moua  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice |  
AAJC  
Janet Murguía  
National Council of La Raza  
Debra Ness  
National Partnership for  
Women & Families  
Mary Rose O'Keefe  
American-Arab  
Anti-Discrimination Committee  
Terry O'Neill  
National Organization for Women  
Priscilla Ouchida  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Mark Perriello  
American Association of  
People with Disabilities  
Rabbi Jonah Pesner  
Religious Action Center  
Of Reform Judaism  
Anthony Romero  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Shanna Smith  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
Richard L. Trumka  
AFL-CIO  
Randi Weingarten  
American Federation of Teachers  
Dennis Williams  
International Union, UAW

#### Policy and Enforcement

#### Committee Chair

Michael Lieberman  
Anti-Defamation League

#### President & CEO

Wade J. Henderson  
Executive Vice President & COO  
Karen McGill Lawson