

November 29, 2017

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear United States Senators,



YWCA USA
1020 19th Street NW,
Suite 750
Washington, DC 20036
P 202.467.0801
F 202.467.0802
ywca.org

On behalf of YWCA USA, I urge you to VOTE NO on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (HR 1/S.1) and any alternative legislation or amendments that similarly threaten the health, economic security, and safety of women, families, communities of color, and the non-profit sector.

As one of the largest women's organizations in the nation with a nearly 160-year history and daily presence across 47 states and the District of Columbia, we know that any legislative tax proposal must advance the health, economic security, and safety of women, girls, and communities of color, and support a robust non-profit sector that plays such a critical role in meeting community needs. To that end, YWCA will only support legislation that economically benefits working women and lower- and middle-income families; supports a thriving non-profit sector; ensures adequate funding for the programs and services that help women and girls meet their economic, educational, health, and safety needs; and maintains the strength and viability of the health care infrastructure currently provided by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid, Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and reproductive health service providers so that women and their families have access to safe, affordable, and comprehensive health care services.

Current proposals under consideration in Congress, fall far short of this mark and threaten the security of women, families, and the non-profit sector by:

- Repealing the ACA's individual mandate, meaning an estimated 13 million people will become uninsured
- Eliminating tax benefits that directly benefit women and families, including tax deductions for childcare and early education, student loan interest, medical expenses, and state and local taxes
- Undermining the strength and vitality of the non-profit sector by eliminating the charitable tax deduction and rolling back the "Johnson Amendment," which preserves the integrity of charitable nonprofits by prohibiting electioneering and partisan political activities
- Increasing taxes on millions of middle-class and struggling families
- Increasing the deficit by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, thereby undermining the funding for programs and services like Medicaid, Pell grants, and child care, nutrition and housing

assistance that are essential to the wellbeing of people and communities

- Excluding many working women and families from proposed tax credits for employers who provide paid family and medical leave

We are incredibly concerned about the haste and secrecy surrounding the process to develop this legislation. Legislators on both sides of the aisle—and more critically, your constituents—must have the time needed to fully consider and understand the consequences of legislation that will have a lasting impact for decades to come. Without full hearings and debate, the legislative record lacks the voices and concerns of women and families, and Congress is unable to fulfil its responsibility to fully and openly ascertain the consequences of this legislation.

YWCA USA urges you to VOTE NO on the current Senate legislation, and to return to a bipartisan process that includes full hearings and debate.

Sincerely,



Alejandra Y. Castillo
CEO
YWCA USA

YWCA USA is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities. Our more than 50,000 employees and volunteers in 47 states and the District of Columbia help over 2 million women, girls, and their families each year at YWCAs across the country. To read more about YWCA USA, visit www.ywca.org.



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