



HOUSE COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER ROSA DeLAURO

Devastating Impacts of House Republican Cuts

Republican cuts, like those in the Default on America Act that passed the House, would be devastating to children, families, seniors, and veterans – millions of people across our country. Hundreds of thousands of families would lose their homes and the child care that helps them keep their jobs. College and job training would be kept out of reach. Hundreds of local cops would be taken off the street. Border protections would be cut. These are investments Republicans and Democrats have supported, and we must fight to protect them.

Based on [information](#) Ranking Member DeLauro received from [agency leaders](#), House Republicans' Default on America Act would cut spending for this year back to 2022 levels, a cut of at least 22 percent. These cuts would:

Endanger public safety by:

Jeopardizing rail and air safety.

- Following recent catastrophic derailments, rail safety jobs would be dramatically reduced, with **11,000 fewer safety inspection days** and **30,000 fewer miles of track inspected annually**.
- Despite passenger volume projected to increase by nearly 10 percent within a two-year span, there would be reductions in the number of Transportation Security Officers and maintenance of transportation security equipment which would cause passenger wait times to **increase by 300 percent at TSA security checkpoints** and **exceed two hours** at large airports.
- After recent near-misses, our air travel would come to a halt with **125 Air Traffic Control Towers shutting down**, impacting one-third of all Airports.

Making our borders less safe.

- Over **45,800 aircraft hours** and **11,400 boat hours** executed by Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operations could be cut, more than half of its operational capability, and our ability to secure the border and combat drug trafficking would be undermined, allowing into our country more than **154,000 pounds of cocaine**, **850 pounds of fentanyl**, **1,900 pounds of heroin**, and **17,000 pounds of methamphetamine**.

Cutting law enforcement positions.

- Federal support under the COPS Hiring program would be cut, funding **up to 400 fewer local law enforcement positions** at **60 fewer local law enforcement agencies**, as well as decreasing **FBI personnel by approximately 11,000 people**, and freezing hiring at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). That will mean 190 ATF agents, 130 Industry Operations Investigators, and 180 technical and support staff would be lost to attrition, and ATF's entire workforce of over **5,000 personnel would have to take 36 furlough days**.

Increase costs for hardworking families by:

Making health care more expensive.

- Amid a mental health and overdose crisis, nearly **1 million people facing a suicidal or mental health crisis would be unable to access support services** through the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and tens of thousands of individuals could be denied admission to opioid use disorder treatment, denying them a potentially life-saving path to recovery.
- An estimated **2 million vulnerable individuals and families**, including rural and underserved populations, would **lose access to healthcare services** through Community Health Centers.

Increasing energy and water costs.

- In a century marked by extreme weather events and rising natural disasters, efforts to address the climate crisis would be endangered, including by **slowing the development of more clean energy technologies like wind, solar, and energy-efficient vehicles** needed to lower greenhouse gas emissions and save American families on their energy bills.
- At a time of [historical drought](#) caused by climate change, efforts to conserve and deliver water to the communities most affected would be **delayed, and families would experience increases in cost.**
- As families continue to face tight budgets, **nearly 5 million low-income households could have their home heating or cooling benefits cut** by hundreds of dollars.

Making college more expensive.

- The proposed cuts would take away the opportunity for **80,000 people to attend college** and **reduce the maximum Pell Grant award by nearly \$1,000 for the remaining 6.6 million students** who receive them—making it harder or impossible for them to attend and afford college.

Drastically cutting access to child care and preschool.

- An estimated **200,000 children lose access to Head Start** and **100,000 children would lose access to child care**—undermining our children's education and making it more difficult for parents to go to work.

Stripping nutrition assistance from millions of people.

- Hardworking families are already struggling to pay their bills, and this proposal would **leave up to 1.5 million women, infants, and children unable to get vital nutrition assistance** from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Making it more costly to run a small business.

- These cuts would result in **125,000 fewer entrepreneurs and small businesses with access to free business counseling**, like the Small Business Development Centers, that help bolster the small business economy. Additionally, **295,000 fewer small businesses would be served** by the Entrepreneurial Development Program, which would make it harder for entrepreneurs to receive the support they need.

Undermine American workers by:

Cutting jobs and job training programs.

- The House Republican proposal would deny **750,000 American workers job training and employment services** and result in **100,000 fewer workers gaining the opportunity of a Registered Apprenticeship**.
- Up to **4,500 wildland firefighters would be furloughed** and efforts to modernize the workforce and hire additional firefighters would stop.
- These cuts would result in a dramatic reduction in funding for EPA State and Tribal Assistance Categorical Grants that support states, territories, and Tribes. For some states, these grants account for **hundreds of jobs** and nearly 60 percent of their environmental agency's budget.

Robbing workers of back pay.

- Recovered wages make a real difference for workers struggling to pay rent, buy food, pay for child care, or cover gas or transportation costs to get to their jobs. By reducing investigations and targeted inspections, these cuts mean that **135,000 workers would lose an average of \$1,000 in back wages** they are owed and would tilt the playing field against employers who follow the law.

Making work environments less safe.

- Workers rely on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to ensure their work environments are safe. These cuts would result in **270 fewer inspectors conducting 10,800 fewer inspections**. OSHA would be less able to respond to worker complaints allowing bad employers to put workers in dangerous conditions that can result in serious injury or death.

Hurt seniors by:

Increasing Social Security and Medicare wait times.

- With less staff available, seniors would also be forced to endure increased wait times when they call for assistance for both Social Security and Medicare, and hundreds of **Social Security field offices** could be forced to close or shorten open hours. This would mean that people applying for disability benefits would wait an **additional 2 months for the processing of claims**.

Robbing seniors of healthy meals.

- With the [looming rise](#) of food insecurity, nutrition services, such as Meals on Wheels, would be **cut for more than 1 million seniors**. For some, these services provide their only meal of the day.

Cutting housing for seniors.

- Despite a [stubbornly persistent gap](#) in housing assistance, the Republican proposal would eliminate funding for Housing Choice Vouchers for as many as [100,000 households](#) headed by seniors, putting seniors across the country at greater risk of homelessness.
- Under the proposed Republican cuts, **more than 430,000 low-income families would be evicted** from Section 8 housing. More than 80 percent of these households are headed by seniors. This would cause an unprecedented loss of affordable housing for older adults.

Reducing vital services for older adults.

- Under this proposal, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) would be unable to complete **38 percent of the required health and safety recertification** surveys of nursing homes and home health agencies, leaving thousands of seniors at greater risk of dangerous and unsanitary conditions.
- With a drastic reduction in funding for the Employment and Training Administration, **10,000 low-income older workers** participating in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) would lose their jobs.

Weaken our national security by:

Undermining military readiness.

- This proposal would result in a \$100 billion cut below the strategy-driven level—**undermining military readiness**, weakening our deterrence against the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and **impeding our ability to meet pressing global challenges**, both now and in the future.

Damaging efforts to deter the CCP.

- The cuts would degrade and delay the Department of Defense's efforts to increase capabilities, infrastructure, influence, and deterrence in the Indo-Pacific. They would **jeopardize crucial elements of the Department's strategy** in the region, including investments in the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and the development and procurement of critical munitions like the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile and the Standard Missile-6.
- Cuts to foreign assistance would **set back efforts to support a free, open, connected, secure, and resilient Indo-Pacific region** and decrease U.S. influence and opportunities for U.S. partners in the region and around the world.

Decreasing our ability to recruit and retain service members.

- Under the Republican proposal, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will provide **13 million fewer visits** and Veterans will have to **wait longer to receive the benefits they deserve and have earned**.

Abandoning vulnerable people around the world.

- Proposed House Republican cuts would **reduce U.S. leadership in response to growing humanitarian crises**, including from protracted conflicts and food insecurity caused by multi-season droughts and climate-induced disasters.