Call Your Senators In Support of Murray Budget Plan

Votes Expected Tomorrow & Friday

March 20, 2013

Both chambers of Congress will vote this week on budget resolutions for FY 2014 (and beyond), with the House taking up House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan’s (R-WI) plan today and the Senate set to consider Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray’s (D-WA) very different plan later this week.

As outlined for n4a members in our March 14 and March 15 Legislative Updates, and now in the attached n4a comparison, the Ryan and Murray plans are radically different in their goals, priorities and scope.

Given the significant cuts that the Ryan plan makes to non-defense discretionary programs, such as the Older Americans Act, and mandatory programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid and SNAP, n4a opposes its passage. The Murray plan strikes a much better balance in its approach to deficit reduction, by adding revenues to the equation, calling off the sequester and offering more modest changes to Medicare than the House Republicans or the White House.

That is why n4a believes it is important to support the budget resolution that most closely adheres to our fiscal and aging policy priorities. It is not a given that the Murray plan will pass the Senate, so we ask advocates to reach out to their Senators today, tomorrow and Friday to support this budget proposal.

Action Requested:

Contact your Senators and ask them to support Senator Murray’s budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 8).

- **STEP 1**: Call/email the state and DC offices of your Senators. DC offices can be reached through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Fax or email the state and DC offices of your Senators. If emailing, go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) to find your Senators’ web pages, where there is usually an email form for constituent comments.
• **STEP 2:** Ask other advocates to do the same! Urge colleagues, advisory board members, volunteers and clients to make calls to their Senators, as well.

**Talking Points:**

Please see the attached comparison or our March 15 Legislative Update (n4a members only) for further details on the Murray budget.

A sample comment for you to use with your Senators’ offices follows, but feel free to customize your remarks as you see fit.

As a professional in the field of aging, I ask you to support S. Con. Res. 8 as the best of the budget resolution options before the Senate this year. It is vital to the seniors and family caregivers that our community aging agency serves that:

- the irrational budgeting gimmick known as sequestration is turned off as soon as possible;
- any changes to Medicare are carefully crafted to avoid harming current and future beneficiaries; and
- we generate savings from revenues as well as spending, as it is unfair to solely look to vital entitlement support and critical discretionary programs for the purpose of deficit reduction.

*The Murray plan meets all three of these goals and I urge your support of this measure.*

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