

Groups Call on NYC's Congressional Delegation to Speak Up for Working Americans in the Debt-Ceiling / Budget Debate

A diverse coalition of more than 60 human service, community, senior, labor, economic policy and peace organizations, including Rekindling Reform, has sent a joint letter to the New York City congressional delegation, as well as to Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and the President, urging them to provide a strong and clear national voice to protect the country's social contract in the debate over the debt ceiling and the federal budget.

The coalition urged that the immediate need to raise the federal debt ceiling should not result in budget actions that worsen the nation's severe unemployment crisis and that begin to dismantle government safety net protections that have been part of our nation's social fabric for decades. ([See the letter and its list of signers here.](#))

The letter aims to counter moves by the Right in Congress to use the debt limit deadline to extract cruel, crippling concessions on the nation's social policy framework - from gutting Medicare to mutilating Medicaid to shrinking food stamp availability while choking federal revenues - all with total disregard for population well-being and health.

The letter is one of the activities - called collectively The May 25 Project - that grew out of an emergency workshop convened on May 25 jointly by the Hunger Action Network of NY State, the Metro NY Health Care for All Campaign, and Rekindling Reform.

HOW TO HELP

Dial 1-888-907-1485 today to be connected to your own Senators' and Representative's offices. Tell them:

- That you are a constituent, giving them your name and address;
- That you're depending on them to prevent harmful cuts or caps to programs for low- and moderate-income people in the negotiations to reduce the deficit;
- That they must insist on fair increases in revenues from those with the greatest ability to pay and on savings from the bloated military budget to prevent cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, food stamps, and other essential domestic programs and services.

Though reducing the long-term deficit is an important step toward stabilizing and growing our nation's economy, we must do it responsibly. And, one of the best ways to reduce the long-term deficit is to create jobs now — not to make spending cuts that will eliminate more public sector jobs, weaken the economy, and cause misery for millions of vulnerable people.

(Adapted from a message from the National Women's Law Center)