

Info Alert 227

May 13, 2025

“The true common good is promoted when society and government, with creativity and strict respect for the rights of all...welcome, protect, promote and integrate the most fragile, unprotected and vulnerable.” Pope Francis

What is Budget Reconciliation?

Reconciliation is a special process that makes legislation easier to pass in the Senate once the House has advanced it. Instead of requiring 60 votes to pass, reconciliation only needs a simple majority (50+1). Also, the filibuster may not be used to delay voting on the bill, and if passed in the Senate, it does not require the President’s signature to become law.

Reconciliation begins with a congressional budget resolution. This instructs certain committees in the House to make changes to spending, revenues, deficits, or debt limits by specific amounts. Each committee writes its own bill to achieve its target, and if there are multiple committees, the Budget Committee puts the bills together into one big “*beautiful*” bill.

Budget Reconciliation 2025

This year House Republicans are moving quickly to draft legislation for a massive reconciliation bill that would spend over 5 trillion dollars to extend tax cuts to the wealthy, to increase funding for immigration enforcement and to fund other priorities in the present administration while cutting 1.5 trillion dollars in the federal budget through cuts to federal programs including Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The vote on these cuts is expected to be released to the committees on May 12th. The programs being placed on the “chopping block” are a means of survival for low-income families. In many cases, financial assistance for food and medical care enables families to cover the cost of rent.

What Is Ours to Do?

The Catholic Health Association (CHA) is inviting us to make our voices heard. Medicaid is crucial to many residents in nursing facilities. This budget cut may also affect our family members and those we serve in the ministry. We need to act NOW!

CHA has provided an information sheet about Medicaid. Please see the attachment. They have also supplied a link that provides an e-tool to make advocacy easy.

<https://www.chausa.org/advocacy/resources/contact-congress#/>

Haiti Update: “*ak de men vid*”- “with two empty hands”

In dear Haiti over the last 20 years, and emerging now, especially due to gang violence, there has been a great exodus from the rural areas, flooding large cities like Port-au-Prince, the capital city. Haitians arrive with “two empty hands” and search for food and shelter. Eating has become an uncommon privilege. Not everyone can eat every day.

News from the Rich in Mercy Institute – Spring, 2025

The Little Sisters of St. Therese of the Child Jesus are grateful for our prayers. Sister Denise Desil of the Little Sisters of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus said that the sisters are okay, and they ask for our prayers, most especially for their country.

Prayer

The 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si' will be celebrated on May 24, 2025. We will be forever grateful to Pope Francis for how he encouraged us to see ourselves as interconnected with all of creation and how he challenged us to protect our Earth, our common home. This video is a proper prayer of remembrance and love.

In Memoriam

<https://www.usccb.org/pope-francis-resources-memoriam>

Suggested Actions

1. Perhaps each local convent can work on a simple letter. Send the letter from each individual Sister, not as a group. Have each person add one new or different thing to each letter.
2. Here is a link from the National Domestic Workers Alliance. They are also floating a petition to save Medicaid. Please read about their position on this and sign their petition if you can.

<https://act.domesticworkers.org/a/tell-your-lawmakers-protect-medicaid-and-care>