March 19, 2013

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to oppose the budget resolution sponsored by Chairman Paul Ryan and support the progressive alternatives sponsored by Rep. Chris Van Hollen, the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC), and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC).

Chairman Ryan’s budget plan would impose considerable hardships on those who can least afford it in order to slash taxes for the wealthy and corporations. The proposed spending reductions, on top of the sequester, would incapacitate state and local governments, leading to massive cuts in vital public services and enormous job losses and threaten our fragile economic recovery. Instead of this budget plan, the American people want our government to grow the economy, create jobs, and generate significant and progressive revenue for economic investment and critical public services.

We’ve seen the Ryan budget before, and Americans soundly rejected it. Chairman Ryan’s budget would set woefully inadequate spending levels for critical public services and jobs. Once again, funding levels would be set lower than mandated by the Budget Control Act (BCA). It would end Medicare as we know it and turn the guarantee of health care for seniors into a voucher, doubling out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries. And, it would lay the groundwork for future cuts in Social Security. It would gut Medicaid, impose inflexible funding caps through block grants to states, and shift enormous and unsustainable costs to the elderly, disabled and states still struggling to emerge from the recession. The budget resolution would also repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), increasing even further the number of Americans without health insurance and eliminating important consumer protections.

At the end of the day, these draconian cuts only serve to lay the groundwork to further lower taxes on the wealthiest Americans and corporate special interests. I strongly urge you to oppose Chairman Ryan’s budget resolution and support the progressive alternatives.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Loveless
Director of Federal Government Affairs