



OBM Director Mick Mulvaney Holds Briefing On Govt Budget Cuts

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"This is the centerpiece of the spending proposal - cuts of almost \$1 trillion over 10 years in Medicaid, food stamps and other anti-poverty programs", says Greg Valliere, chief strategist at Horzion Investments who writes a daily take on politics.

"That assumes a pessimism about America, about the economy, about its people, about its culture, that we're simply refusing to accept", White House budget director Mick Mulvaney said of the CBO assumptions.

"We're no longer going to measure compassion by the number of programs or the number of people on those programs", Mulvaney said in a statement picked up by Bloomberg.

Donald Trump's business-mogul ways (which include wanting to sell half of USA strategic oil reserves to ease the national debt) have led to a proposed budget that would heavily gut the EPA and State Department. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa. But "Congress has the power of the purse strings".

The budget is getting a low-key unveiling with the president traveling overseas.

Trump's budget strikes the steel stake at midnight to the heart of this vampire.

The document (available via WaPo), Putting America's Health First: FY 2018 President's Budget for HHS, sees the NIH in-line for just under a 20% cut, down to \$26 billion in FY 2018, from \$31 billion in 2016, a loss of around \$5.8 billion. Enrollment in December 2015 was 647,056, for instance, according to the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services. In 2015, federal and state spending on Medicaid was about \$545 billion.

This includes immediate cuts to unnecessary and improper spending; reforms to bring health care, welfare, and other entitlement spending under control; and tax reform that reduces harmful distortions to saving, investing, and producing in the United States.

Tax cuts would primarily benefit the affluent. But Medicaid is required to pay for nursing home and institutional care.

Even so, the GOP backlash to Trump's budget was striking, as few lawmakers apart from the top leaders in the House and Senate seemed inclined to give the president much deference.

"This is a sea change in terms of how we would look at taking care of the most vulnerable in our country".

Copies of President Donald Trump's fiscal 2018 federal budget are laid out ready for distribution on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

Two Republican aides in Congress said the modest request is an acknowledgement from the White House that full funding is not realistic given opposition from Freedom Caucus conservatives in the House of Representatives as well as Democrats in the House and the Senate.

The case against, as Cato Institute health policy scholar Michael Cannon argues, is that the per-capita structure might inadvertently create incentives for states to continue expanding the program in order to increase federal funding.

The proposed Budget is also seeking to consolidate the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality into the NIH, but will hold on to its discretionary \$272 million funding. Similar criticism came from the American Soybean Association and the National Corn Growers Association. The cuts could "hobble our ability to provide tomorrow's cures and technologies".

The \$603 billion includes funding for nuclear weapons programs at the Department of Energy and other national defense programs as well as the Department of Defense. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, asked if he's concerned about the message sent by slashing the Medicaid program for the poor and disabled. The *food stamp* program serves about 42 million people. "From Ebola to Zika to opioid misuse to diabetes to heart disease, the CDC is on the front lines keeping Americans healthy".

The proposal includes an additional \$65 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) money, which is meant to fund ongoing wars and does not count against the budget caps.

'Here's what I'm happy about, ' Ryan said. And let's be clear about this: These cuts would deeply affect poor white Americans, who were instrumental in voting Trump into office. He would also cut billions of dollars in public housing funds. And eventually, Trump would like to build that wall. "Taxpayers should not have to prop up Planned Parenthood's failing, abortion-centered business model". It will be officially released on Tuesday.