



## Mulvaney Defunds Plans to Cut Social Programs

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May 25, 2017

President Donald Trump's first budget request to Congress would cut or eliminate a range of programs created to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well those helping communities prepare for more intense flooding or hurricanes expected to result from **climate change**. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, and **Agriculture** Secretary Sonny Perdue were also testifying.

According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, in order for Trump's **tax** cuts to pay for themselves, "The country would need roughly 4.5 *percent* sustained growth to pay for the entire **tax** plan – two-and-a-half times the 1.8 *percent* that CBO projects to occur over the next decade". It *also* emphasizes concentrating EPA's enforcement of environmental protection violations on programs that are not delegated to States.

"You would hope that they would want to ask the folks who know the most about it", said Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Texas, chairman of the House **Agriculture** Committee, adding he and his staff were not consulted ahead of the proposal of large crop insurance cuts which he can not support.

Much of the early criticism of Trump's proposal has been focused on its cuts to what is euphemistically called the "social safety net".

The White House's budget proposal calls for an \$800 billion Medicaid cut over the next decade as well as a \$193 billion cut to the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) food stamp program over the same duration.

"You can't fix the long-term unless you address those two programs", says Michael Tanner, an expert on entitlements at the libertarian Cato Institute.

'If the White House budget plan were to become law, it would devastate America's **science** and technology enterprise, ' said Rush Holt, the AAAS chief executive, during a teleconference with reporters. "It assumes that the stars perfectly align".

Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) went further in calling the proposed reductions or elimination of programs for low-income Americans "cruel" at a time Trump wants to spend more for programs in the **Defense Department**.

"It appears to be the most egregious accounting error in a presidential budget in the almost 40 years I have been tracking them", Summers wrote in the **Washington Post**.

“I don’t know that your priorities are much different from my priorities for USDA”, he told Aderholt.

At a House hearing Wednesday, Democratic Rep. Rosa DeLauro told Perdue that the budget turns the nation’s back on the hungry.

“It’s never happened”, Sanford said.

That aspiration, however, has *also* been questioned, because despite the cuts to social, educational and scientific programs, among others, analysts think that the Government only claims vague savings and imprecise sources of income.

Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., asked DeVos whether a private school can receive voucher money even if it denies access to LGBT students.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is defending the Trump administration’s proposal to slash funding for key K-12 and higher education programs while promoting school choice.

DeVos answered that that was not the federal government’s business, but was for states and locales to decide. “I am shocked that you could not provide one example of discrimination” that warrants federal intervention, Clark said.

The proposed budget and **tax** cuts come on the heels of the House effort to repeal the Affordable *Care* Act (ACA) and replace it with their American Health *Care* Act (AHCA), which the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities noted would be “the largest transfer in modern US history from low- and moderate-income people to the very wealthy”, should it become law.

“The impact on the people we support would be dire”, he said. “Their efforts against terrorism and other disasters won’t immediately collapse”.

Ryan isn’t making any promises about passing the Trump budget, though.

Senator Jerry Moran, a Kansas Republican who serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said reducing money for medical research “makes no sense”.