

**House Republican Radical Cuts
Will Hurt Americans,
Make Our Country Less Safe**



Democratic
**Policy &
Communications**
Committee

Majority Leader **Chuck Schumer**
Chairwoman **Debbie Stabenow**

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Radical Topline Cuts	4
Cuts Would Hurt Americans, Make Our Country Less Safe	5
Leave American Families Behind	5
Take Food Away From Hungry Families	5
Rip Support Away from Our Veterans	6
Undermine America’s Competitiveness	6
Threaten the Safety of Americans	6
Hurt Our Natural Resources and Fuel the Climate Crisis	7
Break our Promises to Tribal Governments	8
Exacerbate the Affordable Housing Crisis	9
Deprive America’s Small Businesses of Support They Need	9
Compromise Our National Security	9
Democrats Are Committed to Defending Critical Programs	10

Executive Summary

When MAGA Republicans took control of the U.S. House of Representatives, their first action wasn't to reduce costs for middle-class families. It wasn't to help create good American jobs, strengthen our national security, or ensure that our seniors can retire with dignity.

No. Instead, the MAGA-controlled House voted to protect tax cheats – a move that would balloon the deficit. And now they're pitching brutal budget cuts that would leave our families stretched thinner. Our economy weaker. Our country less defended. And our seniors sicker and poorer.

The wealthy and well-connected? They won't be asked to pay an additional dime to achieve this MAGA budget vision.

Among other changes, the MAGA House plan would:

- Slash health care for seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families.
- Cut crucial funding to repair our nation's crumbling roads and bridges.
- Eliminate 21,000 law enforcement positions nationwide.
- Deny 1 million babies access to formula.
- Sharply reduce programs American parents depend on to raise their families, from Head Start, to affordable child care, to heating assistance, to child nutrition, to help with housing costs.
- Rip support away from our veterans, including suicide prevention research efforts and help in accessing the benefits they have earned.
- Abandon people who need mental health care and treatment for opioid use disorder.
- Undermine our ability to compete against China and create jobs here at home.
- Compromise our national defense.

MAGA Republicans fueled the debt with their nearly \$2 trillion Trump tax giveaways to the wealthy and big corporations. And now that they're in charge of the House, they've voted to make it worse by shielding wealthy tax cheats and demanded that American seniors, families, workers, and veterans foot the bill.

That's wrong, and Senate Democrats won't stand for it. We've fought to lower costs for American families. We've fought to create better-paying jobs. We've fought to build safer communities. And we're ready to fight to ensure that large corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of any plan to reduce the deficit.

Americans deserve better, and Senate Democrats are ready to deliver.

Radical Topline Cuts

In his battle to secure the Speakership, Kevin McCarthy and the most radical fringes of the Republican conference agreed to cap discretionary spending at fiscal year 2022 levels. Such a cap would result in draconian cuts to an enormous swath of federal programs that hundreds of millions of Americans depend on.

Just how dramatic are the cuts Congressional Republicans have rallied around? If Republicans were to blindly cut all programs to this level, it would amount to a 12% cut to each and every program – including defense programs – in inflation-adjusted terms.

If, instead, Republicans grow defense funding with inflation – and VA medical care is funded next year at the level already required by law – and still maintain the same overall spending cut, it would amount to a 30% cut to all other federal programs. That’s a 30% cut to the NIH, opioid addiction and mental health treatment, housing assistance, child care and child nutrition, law enforcement and public safety, science and innovation, and veteran assistance programs.

The remainder of this report, however, assumes that House Republicans will revert back to 2022’s spending levels for both the defense and non-defense categories, and does not adjust for inflation.

Combined, these cuts put America’s security at risk.

At a time of great uncertainty in the world, the cuts would devastate the nation’s ability to protect itself and provide for Americans’ needs.

As Table 1 shows, House Republicans would cut defense discretionary spending by a whopping \$76 billion, or 8.9%, not including additional cuts in purchasing power due to the effects of inflation. For nondefense discretionary spending (NDD), House Republicans would cut funding by 11.8%, not including inflation.

Table 1. Proposed Cuts in Discretionary Funding Suggested by Freeze at FY22 Levels

\$ in millions	FY22 Enacted (\$)	FY23 Enacted (\$)	FY24 House GOP (\$)	FY24-FY23 (\$)	FY24-FY23 (%)
Total Base Funding	1,472,748	1,614,726	1,472,748	-141,978	-8.8%
Defense	782,152	858,359	782,152	-76,207	-8.9%
Nondefense*	690,596	756,367	690,596	-65,771	-8.7%
NDD w/o VA Medical Care	593,544	637,619	562,492	-75,127	-11.8%
VA Medical Care	97,052	118,748	128,104	+9,356	+7.9%

*Figure includes CHIMP savings, excludes adjustments, and reflects \$12.5 billion in base funding provided in Divisions M and N of the FY2023 omnibus, as well as \$1.9 billion in comparable funding in FY2022.

**Table assumes the proposed cuts are allocated between defense and nondefense programs, consistent with their FY22 enacted levels. To the extent that defense cuts are reduced, nondefense cuts would be increased in kind.

Cuts Would Hurt Americans, Make Our Country Less Safe

The examples below show how the House Republican plan to roll back discretionary funding to FY22 levels would make the nation less safe, secure, healthy, and fair:

Slash Health Care for Americans

Worsen the opioid epidemic by cutting HHS programs to tackle the crisis by \$582 million.

These cuts would hit programs that help people receive addiction treatment and life-saving opioid reversal drugs like naloxone.

Underfund critical mental health programs by cutting \$325 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration mental health programs. This would include deep cuts to the Mental Health Block Grant, youth mental health services, and other suicide prevention programs at a time when rates of mental illness and serious depression are increasing, particularly among children and youth.

Leave those in crisis waiting longer to speak to a mental health professional by cutting the Suicide Prevention Lifeline Service by \$59 million. Call, text, and chat volume to the Lifeline has increased dramatically – by 88% – since the shift to a 3-digit phone number in July 2022. Cuts to the Lifeline would leave those in crisis facing longer wait times and even risk calls going unanswered.

Threaten life-saving medical research by slashing funding for the National Institutes of Health by \$5.6 billion. These cuts would slow progress in efforts to find effective treatments for diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's disease, mental illness, ALS, muscular dystrophy, and opioid addiction. It would weaken America's competitiveness in biomedical innovation, particularly against China, and increase our reliance on foreign countries for clinical trials and drug development.

Leave American Families Behind

Worsen the existing crisis in high quality and affordable child care by cutting nearly \$950 million from the Child Care and Development Block Grant. A cut of that magnitude would make it much harder – and impossible in some areas – for parents to find high-quality, affordable child care.

Leave families unable to heat or cool their homes by cutting \$472 million in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Such cuts could be devastating for struggling families, particularly those already facing extreme weather conditions.

Take Food Away From Hungry Families

Deny access to infant formula, fresh fruits and vegetables, and other necessary foods by removing 1 million participants from the WIC program. These cuts would endanger the most vulnerable Americans by reducing vital nutrition assistance during the first years of life.

Endanger food safety and disrupt the food supply chain by reducing the number of Food Safety and Inspection Service meat inspectors. The drastic proposed cuts would slow down inspections and make our food less safe.

Rip Support Away from Our Veterans

Underfund life-saving services for our nation's veterans. The proposed cuts would reduce VA medical research funding by \$108 million, requiring elimination of about 1,000 staff positions. This would limit efforts to address the impacts and prevalence of traumatic brain injury, cancer, and other diseases among veterans, as well as suicide prevention research efforts.

Reduce staffing levels at the Veterans Benefits Administration by 1,200 claims processors, further contributing to the disability claims backlog. This \$456 million cut would make veterans wait months or years to receive the benefits they have earned.

Increase wait times and restrict access to VA Cemeteries by requiring a reduction of nearly 100 staff responsible for scheduling veterans' burials and internments.

Undermine America's Competitiveness

Undermine bipartisan efforts to advance our nation's competitiveness and innovation by cutting \$1.17 billion from the National Science Foundation and \$972 million from the Department of Energy's Office of Science. These cuts would endanger the majority of federal investments in basic research in areas such as computer science, mathematics, and biology.

Endanger implementation of the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, including those related to research security to protect against technology transfer to China.

At NSF, this would reduce research and education grants by approximately 2,600, which would support 38,600 fewer scientists, technicians, teachers, and students compared to FY 2023. At DOE, researchers at national laboratories and universities could be reduced by up to 5,000 scientists, students, and technical staff. These cuts would endanger research in areas like artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and quantum computing, harming both our national security and global competitiveness.

Reduce investments into cutting-edge research facilities like the next generation optical and radio telescopes, and risk ceding leadership in these fields to China, with potentially serious national security concerns.

Threaten the Safety of Americans

Jeopardize security and public safety capabilities. The House Republican plan would cause a \$6 billion cut to the Department of Justice, resulting in the loss of over 21,000 law enforcement positions nationwide, including:

- Approximately 6,975 agents and 2,350 attorneys;
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation would lose over 5,800 positions and over 2,100 Special Agents nationwide – bringing the FBI back to FY 2020 funding levels and negating 4 years of investments provided by Congress for investigative personnel, tools, and technology;
- The Bureau of Prisons would lose over 6,600 positions and almost 3,500 correctional officers; and
- The U.S. Attorneys would lose over 2,000 staff positions and nearly 1,100 Assistant United States Attorneys.

Weaken our nation's border security and immigration enforcement by significantly reducing Border Patrol staffing and technological capacity. As a result of the proposed cuts, Customs and Border Protection would need to furlough all of its border patrol agents. The lost time from furloughing agents for a few months would be the equivalent of losing over 2,800 agents. CBP would also lose the capacity to hold over 3,600 noncitizens and have no funding for medical care, leading to significant strain on services in border states and communities.

Over \$640 million in border security technology would no longer be operational as Border Patrol would not have the resources to operate and sustain the equipment and capabilities. These cuts would severely hinder efforts to strengthen border security and combat transnational criminal organizations.

Cripple our nation's trade, travel, and inspection capabilities, resulting in reduced ability to seize illegal narcotics crossing into the United States. The House Republican plan would result in furloughs of CBP officers and staff responsible for inspections of people and cargo at air, land, and sea ports of entry. Reducing CBP's inspection capabilities would allow up to 200,000 pounds of narcotics and thousands of counterfeit products to enter our country, posing significant risks to American communities.

Increase wait times at America's airports and exacerbate supply chain issues. For international airport arrivals, wait times would increase from 30 minutes to 1.5 hours and wait times at land ports would increase from 30 minutes to 2.5 hours. Wait times would also increase at America's airports for domestic travel, including closing TSA security checkpoints at major airports across the country, resulting in lines exceeding a few hours. The Republican cuts would eliminate⁴ overtime, requiring CBP to deny landing rights at airports outside core business hours and reduce operating hours at land ports of entry, further exacerbating supply chain issues.

Reverse the recovery of the U.S. aviation industry and threaten greatly needed advancements in aviation safety systems. The House Republican plan would cut the FAA's operations by \$1.4 billion and would lead to personnel and service cuts to air traffic controllers and aviation safety inspectors. The expertise of this highly specialized workforce could mean that one-time cuts would reduce staffing not just for the coming year, but for the next decade. The House Republican plan would also lead to major delays and cancellations to NextGen safety technology contracts and eliminate or defer necessary upgrades to critical safety systems.

Hurt Our Natural Resources and Fuel the Climate Crisis

Disrupt national parks and hurt surrounding communities by cutting \$410 million from the National Parks Service. These cuts would undermine Americans' ability to visit and enjoy our national parks and wildlife areas, as well as hurt surrounding communities that rely on tourism as an economic generator. Park staffing would drop by more than 1,500 employees, reducing the Service's ability to protect wildlife and natural areas, stressing park infrastructure, and harming the visitor experience.

Weaken efforts to suppress and prepare for deadly wildfires by cutting \$181 million for wildfire suppression and preparedness programs. These cuts would gut the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior's ability to prepare for wildfires with equipment and vehicles, helicopter and airtanker contracts, and firefighter staffing. The cuts would weaken hazardous fuels reduction projects, which reduce the severity and risk of wildfires.

Threaten our ability to meet climate goals and improve competitiveness by making a devastating \$2 billion cut to the Department of Energy. These cuts would significantly reduce investments in the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, ARPA-E, and the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy offices and research and development necessary to meet our climate goals. Further, EERE would see decreases across all renewable offices like water, wind, and solar as well as sustainable transportation offices like hydrogen, vehicles, and bioenergy.

Eliminate critical investments to protect and harden America's energy infrastructure by wiping out increased funding provided for the Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response office. The increased funding was aimed at expanding the Department's ability to coordinate and respond to disruptive threats facing the energy sector by leveraging cooperation between the private sector and national labs.

Jeopardize bipartisan efforts to upgrade water systems and other priority infrastructure by cutting EPA's state, tribal, and local grant and infrastructure accounts by \$539 million. These cuts would seriously undermine efforts to build water infrastructure, clean up brownfields, reduce pollution, and support implementation of environmental programs.

Slow the replacement of lead pipes and efforts to reduce flood threats by slashing \$367 million from EPA's annual funding to replace lead pipes, upgrade drinking water systems, address combined sewer overflows, and support other priority water infrastructure needs. This massive cut would be entirely at odds with the widespread bipartisan support for water infrastructure funding demonstrated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as well as recent Water Resources Development Acts.

Break Our Promises to Tribal Governments

Undermine our federal trust responsibilities to Tribes by cutting \$597 million from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, the Indian Health Service, and Native American housing programs. The Republicans' plan would result in:

- \$177 million less for the BIA, which serves 574 federally recognized Tribes;
- \$33.4 million less for BIA's Tribal law enforcement and justice programs, which currently have an estimated \$1.3 billion unmet need;
- \$30 million less for BIA's Natural Resources programs, which support treaty rights and are a primary source of revenue for many Tribal communities; and
- \$65 million less for BIA's Tribal Priority Allocations, which will greatly impact the ability of Tribal communities to provide basic services.

Endanger education for Native youth by cutting \$120 million from the BIE. These cuts would prevent Tribal schools from keeping up with rising costs and routine maintenance of school facilities in dire need of updating and renovation.

Reduce inpatient care, ambulatory care, and medical support services such as laboratory, pharmacy, diagnostic imaging, cancer screening, geriatric health, women's health, and youth services as a result of a \$300 million cut to IHS, including \$104 million less for hospitals and health clinics that support direct health care services for approximately 2.5 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives across Indian Country. These cuts would result in approximately 550 doctors, nurses, and other staff being taken off the job, and three new facilities planned to open in FY24 could be delayed indefinitely.

Reduce support for Native American housing programs by cutting \$120 million from programs to address the dire housing conditions in Indian Country. Native Americans living on Tribal lands are twice as likely to live in poverty compared to the rest of the nation.

Exacerbate the Affordable Housing Crisis

Exacerbate the affordable housing crisis and create housing instability for our most vulnerable citizens by requiring significant cuts to the HOME Investment Partnership Program. These cuts would result in at least 1,700 fewer new affordable housing units being constructed and 1,300 fewer low-income households receiving rental assistance.

Cut Housing and Urban Development's rental and homeless assistance by \$6.6 billion, putting hundreds of thousands of households at risk of eviction or homelessness. These cuts would force local Public Housing Authorities to immediately pull existing vouchers from families searching for units or sever assistance altogether.

Place children at increased risk of lead-based paint exposure. The Republicans' plan would cut \$48 million in funding to address lead and other health hazards in low-income homes, resulting in 3,000 fewer homes completing lead and hazard abatement programs.

Deprive America's Small Businesses of Support They Need

Deprive small businesses of the resources and assistance they need to drive economic growth by cutting \$144 million from the Small Business Administration. These cuts would include slashing \$16.5 million from the Small Business Development Centers program, leading to fewer services for more than 100,000 small businesses.

Reduce support for veteran- and women-owned businesses. The Republican plan would cut \$2.1 million from the Veterans Business Outreach Center program and \$3.2 from Women's Business Centers, likely reducing services for thousands of veteran and women entrepreneurs seeking to start or grow their own business.

Threaten efforts to fight pandemic aid fraud and abuse. These cuts would include \$3.8 million from the SBA Office of the Inspector General, undermining its mission to fight fraud and abuse, especially in pandemic programs like the Paycheck Protection Program.

Compromise Our National Security

Undermine the United States' ability to compete with China and advance other foreign policy objectives around the world. The House Republican plan would cut \$3.7 billion in funding for the State Department, USAID, and other agencies on the front line of protecting and advancing U.S. foreign policy objectives. At a time of growing international instability, conflict, and displacement, diplomatic and development funding is more critical than ever.

Compromise our national defense. The Republicans' proposed \$76.2 billion cut— an effective cut of 17% when factoring in the effects of inflation — would undermine our military readiness and security by eroding our military advantage relative to China, delaying or requiring the re-negotiations of multi-year procurement contracts for major acquisition programs, and delaying the development and test capacity of next-generation weapons.

Endanger our allies. The proposed cuts would reduce the Department of Defense's support for Ukraine by as much as 25%.

Reduce support for servicemembers and their families. These cuts would curtail innovative recruitment tools and family support programs, hampering recruitment and retention of servicemembers during a time of low recruitment levels across the Armed Forces.

Democrats Are Committed to Defending Critical Programs

MAGA Republicans fueled the national debt with their \$2 trillion Trump tax giveaways to the wealthy and big corporations. And their first action as they took control of the U.S. House of Representatives was to protect wealthy tax cheats – a move that will balloon the deficit by \$114 billion.

Meanwhile, their budget plan would slash health care, Head Start, affordable child care, heating assistance, support for our veterans, road and bridge repairs, and so many other programs American families depend on. And it would undermine our ability to compete against China and protect our nation from threats both at home and abroad.

Senate Democrats have different values, and a different vision. We believe that we can responsibly reduce the deficit without making Americans poorer, sicker, and stretched thinner. That will require large corporations and the wealthy to do their part and pay their fair share.

Democrats stand ready to work with any Republican who's ready to serve the people instead of the wealthy and well-connected. The People's House must continue to work for the American people.