



Poverty/Federal Budget

Theological/Ethical Reflection

- C Treatment of the poor is a consistent Biblical measure of governmental justice.
- C Government responsibility for the common good includes a just sharing of resources and protecting the most vulnerable.
- C Budgets are moral documents. They should reflect values of equality, opportunity and justice.

Background

The disparity between rich and poor continues to grow. Jobs pay too little to lift people out of poverty. Growing percentages of those using church food programs are the working poor. When taxes are reduced for the wealthiest Americans, it reduces the federal government's capacity to provide services for our most vulnerable citizens.

Present Status of Budget Process (CHN)

Both the House and Senate passed budgets that increase domestic discretionary spending, provide reserve funds to address unmet needs and include pay-as-you-go rules. The next step in the budget process is a joint budget resolution.

What Would Help

- A Conference Committee resolution that
- C Does not use hypothetical 2012 budget surplus to extend tax breaks.



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- C Does not use hypothetical 2012 budget surplus to extend tax breaks.

- C Establishes a \$50 billion reserve fund for extending SCHIP to all eligible children.
- C Includes the \$20 billion called for in the House resolution (\$5 more than Senate) for the Food Stamp Program.
- C Preserves the Sense of the House language in favor of maintaining and building upon efforts to fight hunger.
- C Retains the Sense of the House provision seeking restoration of funds for Child Support Enforcement (cut last year)
- C Establishes \$5 billion reserve fund for mandatory child care.
- C Includes language accompanying the budget resolutions that points to the need to increase funding for education, health care, Katrina survivors, veterans and renewable energy.
- C Provides enough funding for domestic programs to make up for losses sustained since 2005 plus monies to address additional unmet needs.

Other Things That Will Help

- C Vigorously oppose any new tax cuts.
- C Begin to restore progressive tax system and domestic programs.

(5/07)

Member Denominations

American Baptist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Empire Baptist Missionary Convention, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friends, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church.

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