

STATE FACT SHEET:
House Republicans' Funding Bills Would Have Devastating Impacts for Hard-Working Families Across Montana

House Republicans' bills would raise a host of costs for families, hurt students, seniors, and rural communities, slash support for law enforcement, and undermine the economy in Montana—while Congressional Republicans fight separately for multi-millionaires and big corporations to get massive tax cuts

Earlier this year, the President and Congressional leaders reached a bipartisan budget agreement that averted a first-ever default and protected our historic economic progress. The President, House Democrats, Senate Democrats, and Senate Republicans all stand by this promise. Unfortunately, Speaker McCarthy and House Republicans are ignoring the bipartisan budget agreement they passed and instead advancing extreme, partisan appropriations bills that break their public promise and gut key investments in Montana.

House Republicans claim these cuts are about fiscal responsibility—but they aren't. Not only would their bills add at least \$100 billion to deficits over 10 years by making it easier for the wealthy and big corporations to cheat on their taxes, but House Republicans are separately pushing corporate tax giveaways that would cost over \$500 billion if made permanent—including at least \$30 billion in retroactive tax breaks for investments companies made last year. These retroactive tax cuts alone would erase the savings from their deep cuts to education, health, and labor programs.²⁷

Below are some of the most harmful elements of House Republicans' appropriations plan that they will begin to consider this week.

In Montana, the House Republican bills would:

- **Slash Funding for Schools with Low-Income Students:** House Republicans' 80 percent cut to Title I funding would impact 72,500 students in schools that teach low-income students by forcing a reduction of up to 500 teachers, aides or other key staff.
- **Eliminate Preschool Slots for 200 Children:** House Republicans' cut to Head Start would mean as many as 200 children in Montana would lose access to high-quality preschool—undermining their education, leaving fewer children ready to enter kindergarten ready to learn, and making it more difficult for parents to join the workforce.
- **Degrade Medicare Services:** The House Republican's cut to the administration of the Medicare program would force roughly 253,000 seniors and people with disabilities in Montana to endure longer wait times when they call the Medicare call center, potentially increasing average wait times from five to more than nine minutes. This reduction in funding would also make it harder to pay hospitals and doctors on time, causing financial challenges for health care providers across the country, especially independent and rural providers. And it would limit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' ability to oversee the safety of Montana nursing homes, reducing inspections by at least 10 percent.

²⁷ The House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill cuts these programs by a total of \$30.7 billion, not counting rescissions included in the bill.

- **Worsen Social Security Wait Times:** House Republicans' reduction for the Social Security Administration would impact the roughly 263,000 Montanans receiving Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits. These cuts would cause people applying for disability benefits to wait approximately 9 months on average for a decision, more than doubling wait times from pre-pandemic levels. At funding levels this low, Social Security Field Offices could be forced to shorten the hours or days they are open to the public, or in some cases close altogether.
- **Deny 1,000 Workers Access to Job Training and Workforce Development Services:** House Republicans' \$4 billion in cuts to job training programs at the Department of Labor would result in 700 fewer adults receiving job training and employment services in the state of Montana. House Republicans' cuts would also deprive 300 youth from accessing programs providing the skills and training to support their transition to full-time careers. These harmful cuts would deprive businesses of the skilled workforce they need to thrive, and would cut off workers' pathways to good jobs.