

**From:** Budd, Joe  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2006 11:52 AM  
**To:** Dear Colleague  
**Subject:** Dear Colleague; Budget; Social Services  
February 9, 2006

**SSBG Cuts Could Affect 4.3 Million Americans,  
See How Your State May be Affected**

Dear Colleague:

The Administration's proposed cuts in the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) would have immediate and dramatic impacts on the ability of state social service agencies to meet the vital needs of millions of Americans. SSBG supports services for the disabled, foster care for at-risk children, child protective services for vulnerable children, day care for low-income working families and many other social services. More than 14 million low-income children and adults receive SSBG-funded services annually. The President's budget reduces SSBG by \$500 million in FY 2007, from \$1.7 Billion to \$1.2 Billion. This 30 percent cut could affect more than 4.3 million low-income people. Washington State alone would lose more than \$10.5 million in SSBG funding placing 72,000 low income people at-risk of losing services. Attached is a table that documents the impact of these cuts on each state's SSBG allocation.

SSBG has been repeatedly cut during the past decade and the proposed \$1.2 Billion funding level represents just 66 percent of the program's funding in 1995. In 1999, then Governor Michael Leavitt as Chairman of the National Governors Association pleaded with Congressional leaders to spare SSBG from further cuts noting that "further reductions in funding for SSBG will result in cuts to vital human services for our most vulnerable citizens." In his February 8 testimony before the House Committee on Ways and Means, HHS Secretary Leavitt again acknowledged the essential services that SSBG supports. The rationale he provided for the proposed cut was deficit reduction.

Secretary Leavitt discussed in his opening statement the difficult choices that had to be made in this budget. I believe that cutting vital services to needy families with the guise of fiscal responsibility is the wrong choice. I urge you to vigorously oppose any cuts to SSBG and hope the attached table documenting the impact on your state helps you fight this unwise proposal.

Sincerely,

Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

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Staff Assistant  
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