

n4a Talking Points on Tax Reform, November 2017

Please use or adapt the following key messages in your tax reform and budget cut advocacy!

- With 10,000 Baby Boomers turning 65 every day and the older adult population expected to hit 20 percent by 2030, all major budget and policy decisions must reflect this reality.
- Tax cut proposals being considered by Congress would dramatically increase the federal deficit while paving the way for massive spending cuts to health care, social insurance and safety-net programs that serve millions of older adults and caregivers.
- Instead, we urge lawmakers to participate in a bipartisan, transparent, thoughtful and balanced approach to the federal budgeting process that realistically addresses the health and long-term care needs of the country's growing older adult population.
- Our nation needs an open, public debate over national revenue and spending priorities. This massive, fast-tracked tax cut not only fails to provide significant tax relief for the vast majority of Americans but drives cuts to the very federally supported programs upon which those same citizens rely—or will in the near future.
- To pay for tax cuts, the budget resolution passed by Congress this fall proposes to slash spending for non-defense discretionary programs, including critical aging and disability programs, by \$800 billion; reduce Medicare by \$473 billion; and slash Medicaid by more than \$1 trillion, all over 10 years.
- This is simply not a fair trade-off. Older Americans and their families rely on Medicare to stay healthy, and millions turn to Medicaid and Older Americans Act home and community-based services to remain living at home and in the community. A modest tax cut now that drives up the deficit only creates financial pain down the road if these programs are cut. It's irresponsible and doesn't reflect the current fiscal and demographic realities that the country faces.
- Therefore, we urge you to reject any tax cut proposal that fails to recognize the fiscal realities of the aging of our nation and would undermine the critical

programs and supports necessary to ensure the safety and security of America's older adults, caregivers and their families.