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NDD UNITED: HISTORIC CUTS TO NONDEFENSE DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS IN TRUMP BUDGET WILL HURT MILLIONS IN “TRUMP COUNTRY”

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Coalition representing 2,000 federal, state and local organizations says “skinny” budget takes aim at GOP programs, geographic regions.

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Washington, D.C. –The “skinny” budget President Trump is expected to release this week won’t just hurt his political opponents, a coalition of organizations fighting federal budget cuts is reminding the President. The historically deep cuts expected for nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs—programs that have already suffered due to years of devastating budget cuts—will punish millions in areas that voted heavily for President Trump, and programs conservatives love.

“When you slash the budget for everything from veterans’ housing to Meals on Wheels to National Parks you end up hurting your friends, Mr. President,” said Emily Holubowich, Co-Chair of [NDD United](#), a coalition of more than 2,000 federal, state and local organizations representing millions of Americans who benefit from domestic programs. “You’re taking direct aim at the voters who pulled the lever for you because their economic situation worried them and they believed you’d help. Instead, you’re pulling the rug out from underneath them.”

President Trump has proposed a \$54 billion increase in defense spending at the expense of an equal cut (more than 10 percent) to nondefense discretionary spending, the budget portfolio that supports vital public programs from criminal justice, to food safety, workforce training, to scientific discovery and more.

“The self-described ‘law and order’ president can do better than slashing funding for the Coast Guard and the State Department,” said Ben Corb, public affairs director at American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and a Co-Chair of NDD United. “While NDD United recognizes the importance of a strong national defense program, to pay for increases in defense spending by slashing nondefense discretionary programs will only make the country poorer, sicker, less educated, and less secure. I’m confident that cuts of this magnitude will be rejected on a bipartisan basis by Congress, and we look forward to working with lawmakers to ensure these cuts are not enacted.”

Spending on core government functions is currently at an all-time low as a percentage of GDP. Earlier this month, NDD United delivered a letter calling on Congress and the President to “work together to protect NDD programs from further cuts and end sequestration.” The letter notes the devastating impact of sequestration, arguing, “These cuts are dragging down our economic recovery, hampering business growth and development, weakening public health preparedness and response, reducing

resources for our nation's schools and colleges, compromising federal oversight and fraud recovery, hindering scientific discovery, eroding our infrastructure, and threatening our ability to address emergencies around the world. Simply put, these cuts are bad for the country and are not sustainable."

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NDD United is an alliance of thousands of national, state, and local organizations working to protect investments in core government functions that benefit all Americans.