

Resolution No.: 18-754
Introduced: March 21, 2017
Adopted: March 21, 2017

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Resolution to condemn President Trump’s federal budget proposal and to urge the United States Congress to reject it on behalf of Montgomery County residents

Background

1. Government budgets – at the local, state, and federal level – are often, and properly, described as moral documents.
2. Vice President Pence has said that “[f]ederal funding should reflect the priorities and the values of the majority of the American people.”
3. The federal budget proposed by President Trump is neither a moral document nor reflective of the “priorities and the values of the majority of the American people” and is in direct conflict with the priorities and the values of a majority of Montgomery County residents.
4. Montgomery County and its residents would be significantly harmed if President Trump’s budget were adopted. Approximately 48,000 Montgomery County residents work for the federal government and many thousands more are federal contractors; Montgomery County is home to many of the agencies that are targeted for deep cuts, including NIH, NOAA, NIST; and Montgomery County receives more than \$134 million in federal funds.
5. The federal budget proposed by President Trump would eliminate or drastically reduce funding for programs that provide critically important assistance to low income residents, including, but not limited to, “Meals On Wheels” for seniors; utility bill assistance; emergency food assistance; local anti-poverty efforts; homelessness; affordable housing; and job training. These proposed cuts are in direct conflict with the priorities and values of a majority of Montgomery County residents.
6. The federal budget proposed by President Trump would significantly increase military spending while eliminating and greatly reducing programs and personnel committed to promoting peace and ending conflicts. These proposed cuts are in direct conflict with the priorities and values of a majority of Montgomery County residents.
7. The federal budget proposed by President Trump poses an unacceptable risk to the planet, our air, and our waters. Programs that fight climate change, protect the Chesapeake Bay, and support innovative clean energy solutions would be completely eliminated or severely cut. These proposed cuts are in direct conflict with the priorities and values of a majority of Montgomery County residents.


8. The federal budget proposed by President Trump threatens the health of all Americans by, among other things, reducing the budget of the world's premier health research center, NIH, by almost 20 percent. These proposed cuts are in direct conflict with the priorities and values of a majority of Montgomery County residents.
9. The federal budget proposed by President Trump would dramatically reduce funding for transit services, putting critically needed investments in Metro and the Purple Line at risk. These proposed cuts are in direct conflict with the priorities and values of a majority of Montgomery County residents.
10. The federal budget proposed by President Trump would eliminate the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These proposed cuts are in direct conflict with the priorities and values of a majority of Montgomery County residents.
11. The federal budget proposed by President Trump cuts support for public education by \$13 billion, including significant cuts to Pell Grants and other programs designed to help poorer students afford college. At the same time, funding for private school vouchers is proposed to be increased by \$1 billion. These proposed cuts are in direct conflict with the priorities and values of a majority of Montgomery County residents.
12. The federal budget proposed by President Trump includes \$2 billion to begin construction of a border wall with Mexico. At the same time, funding for the Legal Services Corporation, a 43-year-old congressionally chartered organization that provides free civil legal advice to some of America's most vulnerable residents, is proposed to be completely eliminated. These budget proposals are in direct conflict with the priorities and values of a majority of Montgomery County residents.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Council calls on Congress and our Congressional Delegation to exercise its Constitutional authority as appropriators to reject President Trump's proposed budget and to adopt a revised budget that truly reflects the values and priorities of a majority of Montgomery County residents and the American people.

This is a correct copy of Council action.


Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council