



## **Frequently Asked Questions: House Concurrent Resolution**

Contact: Charles Jeter, [charlesr.jeter@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:charlesr.jeter@cms.k12.nc.us)

### **Q1.) What will be cut as a result of the U.S. House of Representatives Concurrent Resolution (CR) Budget?**

Instructions [Three](#) and [Four](#) of part (b) in Section 2001 under the Title II - Reconciliation and Related Matters in the CR have mandated cuts that will impact school districts across the country should this pass the Senate.

1. In Instruction Three, there is a mandated budget cut of \$880 billion in the Committee on Energy and Commerce Budget. This committee oversees funding for Medicaid services.
2. In Instruction Four, there is a mandated budget cut of \$330 billion in the Committee on Education and Workforce Budget. This committee oversees funding for school nutrition, including the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program.

### **Q2.) Why are republicans in the House of Representatives saying cuts to Medicaid and the school meal program are not part of the cuts identified in the CR?**

Because the CR only provides details to the top line budget departments as outlined above. It's the underlying committee meetings and reporting that highlight the specific cuts within each of the budget departments.

### **Q3.) Who will these cuts harm?**

- The impact of the CEP/school nutrition changes will be on students at Title I schools and those students that come from families less able to afford school meals. 37,000 CMS students will lose access to free lunch if the House CR goes into effect. Another 45,000 CMS students will have to go through a burdensome individual eligibility process in order to receive free lunches.
- The elimination of Medicaid Reimbursements with students with an IEP plan and/or a Section 504 plan impact students who need specialized services in order to receive the education they are entitled to. These critical services can include but are not limited to: Instruction by a certified special education teacher; One-on-one support by a nurse, which could include feeding and toileting; Assistive technology devices to aid with communication needs; Specialized transportation; Services such as speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, counseling, and physical therapy.

### **Q4.) What will happen to services for these students who need special resources for their 504 and IEPs?**

While not certain, it appears CMS will still be required to provide these federally mandated services even as the federal government stops paying for them. The program is likely to become an unfunded mandate from the federal government that will cost CMS over \$15 million annually.

**Q5.) What is the big deal about students having to apply for free food?**

- For many students, the best meal they get all day is the one provided to them at school. Data is clear that hungry students do not perform as well. Taking away meals from these students will have an impact on their performance and their ability to stay on pace with the educational goals set by the federal and state government.
  - Creating burdensome certification/application processes for 45,000 students will create an obstacle to their access to free food. For those unable to apply, they may go all day without a meal.
  - In addition, many families who live on the poverty line, *but not far enough below the poverty line based on federal calculations*, will leave many families having to choose between feeding their student or paying utility bills, for example.

**Q6.) Can't the cuts be accomplished without cutting Medicaid?** No. Mathematically the Energy and Commerce Budget cannot be cut by \$880 billion and not impact Medicaid.

**Q7.) How will CMS provide these services if the federal government will no longer provide this funding?** At this point, that is uncertain. The reality is without funds to provide these mandated services, other items in our budget will have to be cut.

**Q8.) How many steps does the process need to take before it becomes official?**

The Senate and House passed different Budget CRs. As a result, each Chamber will need to vote to determine if they are willing to agree to the other Chamber's CR. Based on history, it is unlikely that either Chamber will vote to accept the other Chamber's Budget.

That will force a Conference Committee between the two Chambers. That committee will have to negotiate the differences in the two budgets and create a singular Conference Report that would then have to be voted on by both Chambers.

Once both Chambers have adopted the Conference Report, it will go to President Trump for his signature.

**Q9.) When will the reduction kick in if the bill passes all chambers?**

That is not certain at this time. It could be as soon as March 15th or weeks afterwards. It all depends on the final agreement between the House and Senate.