

**An Emergency Resolution Concerning the Moral Crisis of Federal Budget
Priorities in the 2025 Reconciliation Bill**

(Sense of the assembly)

Background

WHEREAS,

On July 3, 2025, the United States House of Representatives passed the Senate's revised budget reconciliation bill, H.R. 1-119th Congress, which was signed into law on July 4, 2025, and which includes massive cuts over 10 years to programs promoting the common good and well-being of all people¹, including:

- A \$841 billion reduction to Medicaid, which could result in the loss of healthcare coverage for up to 16 million low-income Americans;
- A \$52 billion cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), affecting food access for more than 42 million people, including 14 million children and 4 million seniors;
- The elimination or reduction of funding to more than 180 rural hospitals, placing rural communities—especially communities of color and tribal lands—at risk of losing emergency and primary care access;
- The slashing of incentives for clean energy while raising the cost of student loans; and
- The addition of \$2 trillion to the national deficit by making the 2017 tax cuts to the wealthy permanent, while only keeping tips, social security, and overtime tax-free until December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS,

At the same time, the reconciliation bill includes \$29.9 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a threefold increase in ICE's annual budget, and \$45 billion for detention facilities for ICE, which is a 265% increase in ICE's annual detention budget with expanded detention facilities, surveillance programs, and interior enforcement initiatives—including the maintenance and expansion of dehumanizing detention centers such as the so-called “Alligator Alcatraz,” where people ~~children of~~ God have been held in cages surrounded by water-filled moats and razor wire.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/07/03/opinion/domestic-policy-bill-in-charts.html> & <https://usafacts.org/articles/whats-in-the-one-big-beautiful-bill/>

(<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/press-release/congress-approves-unprecedented-funding-mass-detention-deportation-2025/>)

WHEREAS,

According to Disciples Overseas Ministries (DOM), the proposed budget cuts to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) may lead to over 14 million additional deaths, including that of 4.5 million children under the age of 5, by 2030. Researchers from Brazil, Mozambique, Spain, and the United States estimate that 91 million deaths were prevented between 2001 and 2021 in low- and middle-income countries because of the support provided by USAID. DOM is witnessing a global domino effect take root as other important donors have also begun announcing substantial budget cuts to humanitarian aid, leading to potentially more deaths²; and existing cuts to USAID programs by sector have led to the following reductions³:

- Water Supply and Sanitation by 88%
- Disaster Readiness by 79%
- Emerging health threats by 77%
- Tuberculosis by 72%
- HIV/AIDS by 69%
- Malaria by 68%
- Crisis Relief by 37%

WHEREAS, disasters from climate change are increasing, while the Bill cuts funding for agencies that have already endured cuts—for example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Weather Service (NWS).⁴

**Concerning the Moral Crisis of Federal Budget Priorities in
the 2025 Reconciliation Bill**

WHEREAS,

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada has long affirmed the inherent dignity of every person and the responsibility of governments to ensure the common good, particularly for the most vulnerable (Micah 6:8; Matthew 25:35-40); and

² Cavalcanti, Daniella Medeiros et al., *The Lancet*

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/06/22/us/politics/usaaid-foreign-aid-trump.html>

⁴ <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/5388436-texas-flooding-flash-flood-camp-mystic-trump-cuts-noaa-nws-fema-national-weather-service/>

69 **WHEREAS,**

70 Christians, regardless of national identities and boundaries, are called by our faith to
71 offer good news to the poor, to release the captives, to welcome strangers, to heal
72 sickness, to love justice, to be merciful, and to walk humbly with God, remembering that
73 all people are children of God, and

74 **WHEREAS,**

75 Government budgets are not simply financial documents, but a moral blueprint reflecting
76 our collective priorities and values that transcend particular nations; and

77

78 **WHEREAS,** Several international partners of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
79 were denied visas to travel to the 2025 General Assembly of the Christian Church,
80 despite many decades of such representatives being part of our Assembly, and
81 whereas Canadian citizens are being held unlawfully by ICE as this Assembly is in
82 session; and

83

84 **WHEREAS,**

85 This immoral budget increases funding for the military and for enforcement, detention,
86 and deportation, while slashing programs that sustain life and offer dignity and services
87 that enable care for children, adults, and seniors affected by chronic and serious illness,
88 disabilities, and poverty; and

89

90 **WHEREAS,**

91 Scripture commands faithful people to defend the rights of the poor and marginalized
92 (Jeremiah 22:16), to loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry
93 (Isaiah 58:6–7), and to recognize Christ in those who are sick, hungry, and imprisoned
94 (Matthew 25:35–40); and

95 **WHEREAS,**

96 The biblical call to welcome the immigrant is clear and consistent:

- 97 • “You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt”
98 (Deuteronomy 10:19);
- 99
- 100 • “The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you
101 shall love the alien as yourself” (Leviticus 19:34);
- 102
- 103 • And Jesus proclaims, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35);
104 and

105 **WHEREAS,**

106 These budget decisions betray the moral values of compassion, justice, and shared
107 responsibility, which form the ethical core of both our faith, our society, and our global
108 neighbors,

109 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that**

110 The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States
111 and Canada meeting in Memphis, July 12-15, 2025, condemns the unjust and
112 dangerous budget priorities in the 2025 reconciliation bill, H.R. 1, and expresses
113 profound dismay and outrage for the suffering it will inflict on the poor, the sick, the
114 hungry, the immigrant, our global partners, and all people; and

115 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that**

116 We reaffirm our identity as an anti-racist pro-reconciliation church, rooted in a faith that
117 commands love for the marginalized, care for the poor, and hospitality for the stranger;
118 and

119 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that**

120 Because we believe in a gospel of welcome, compassion, and healing, we decry the
121 expansion of immigration enforcement through a 265% increase to ICE while funding for
122 Medicaid, rural hospitals, and nutrition programs is being gutted; and
123

124 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that**

125 We urge Disciples congregations, ministries, and individuals to take action in response
126 to our opposition to this immoral budget by:

- 127 ● Advocating with federal representatives to oppose these harmful budgetary
128 decisions and to prioritize life-giving programs;
129
- 130 ● Engaging in public education and coalition-building to expose the impact of
131 unjust spending on our communities;
132
- 133 ● Supporting ministries and organizations providing direct aid to those harmed by
134 these cuts, including health clinics, food pantries, and immigrant accompaniment
135 networks; and

136 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that**

137 The General Assembly calls on Disciples congregations and members to advocate for
138 humane and just immigration policies, provide support to detainees and their families,

and stand in solidarity with immigrant communities in accordance with our baptismal vows to resist evil and injustice in whatever forms they present themselves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that

Those opposing H.R. 1 can take action by participating in a collective writing process. Dates will be announced and a platform will be provided that enables thousands to write together in real time, so that we may together affirm our values, state our opposition to this bill, and describe actions we are prepared to take that make our opposition known; that we invite our overseas, ecumenical, and interfaith partners to join Disciples in this action; that writers share the document with their elected state and national representatives; and that congregations study the document to discern how they may take effective action in mitigating and resisting the worst, most damaging impacts of H.R.1 on the poor, oppressed, immigrants, and our international partners; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that

Our General Minister and President, on behalf of this General Assembly, communicate with members of the United States Congress and Administration about this resolution and our call for federal spending to align with moral and ethical values that center care for the poor, justice for the oppressed, and compassion for the immigrant.

Co-authors:

Rev. Patricia Thompson Winters, Community Christian Church, Tempe, AZ
Rev. Dr. Mandye Yates, First Christian Church, Fullerton, CA

Signed:

Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, Commissioned Minister, First Christian Church, Minneapolis, MN
Rev. Stephanie Kendell, National City Christian Church, Washington DC
Rev. Belva Brown Jordan, Downey Memorial Christian Church, Downey CA
Rev. Dr. Jay R. Hartley, Regional Minister and President, Comunidad Limen CC, Tucson, AZ
Rev. Josh Patty, Regional Minister, Upper Midwest
Rev. Cisa Payuyo, PSWR Associate Regional Minister for Clergy Care, Los Angeles, CA
Rev. Barbara E. Jones, Regional Minister Emeritus, Park Hill Christian Church, Kansas City, MO
Matthew David Clark, Southpointe Christian Church, Lincoln, NE
Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray, Allisonville Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN
Rev. Jessica Braxton, Saguaro Christian Church, Tucson, AZ
Rev. Brett Winters, Sun City CC, Sun City, AZ
Rev. Kelley Dick, Saguaro CC, Tucson, AZ
Rev. Dr. Lisa Barnett, Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK

181 Rev. Nancy Brink, Church of the Foothills, Santa Ana CA
182 Rev. Mike Miller, Marion Christian Church, Marion, IA
183 Rev. Heather Wachendorf, New Beginnings Christian Church, Urbandale, IA
184 Rev. Robyn M. Bles, Wakonda Christian Church, Des Moines, IA
185 Rev. Zachary Moon, University Christian Church, Chicago, IL
186 Rev. Michael Yandell, First Christian Church, Greensboro, NC
187 Rev. Stephen Moore, First Christian Church, Falls Church, VA
188 Rev. Dr. Christy Newton, Disciples Seminary Foundation, Fullerton, CA
189 Dr. Garry Sparks, Princeton University, NJ
190 Rev. Sandhya Jha, Oakland, CA
191 Linda Necker, Community CC, Tempe, AZ
192 Linda Gardner, First Christian Church, Fullerton, CA
193 David Coatsworth, Saguaro Christian Church, Tucson, AZ
194 Rev. Jay Deskins, Chalice Christian Church, Gilbert, AZ
195 Rev. Chad Boseker, First Christian Church, Scottsdale, AZ
196 Rev. Dr. Robert R. Howard, Chalice Christian Church, Gilbert, AZ
197 Rev. Rebecca K. Littlejohn, Vista La Mesa Christian Church, La Mesa, CA
198 Rev. Tanya Lopez, Downey Memorial CC, Downey, CA
199 Rev. Lee Yates, Covina Community Church UCC, Covina CA, with standing in the
200 CC(DOC) PSWR
201 Rev. Liz DeWeese, Brookmeade Congregational Church of the UCC, with standing in
202 the Christian Church (DOC) in Tennessee
203 Rev. Dr. Dayna Kinkade, First Christian Church, Orange, CA
204 Rev. Day Broers, First Christian Church of Melbourne, Melbourne, FL
205 Rev. Beth Chiaravalle, First Christian Church, Orange, CA
206 Rev. Robert Blair, Jr., Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fullerton, with standing in
207 the CC (DOC) PSWR, Los Angeles, CA
208 Rev. Rebecca Zelensky, Central Christian Church (DOC), Terre Haute, IN
209 Rev. Katie Sexton, Arizona Faith Network (partner), Phoenix, AZ
210 Rev. Dr. James Sterling, Community Christian Church, Tempe, AZ
211 Rev. Nancy Brink, Church of the Foothills, Santa Ana, CA
212 Rev. Donna Rose-Heim, Longview Chapel Christian Church, Lee's Summit, MO
213 Rev. Ailsa R. Guardiola González, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Tucson,
214 AZ
215 Rev. Dawn Barnes, Lexington, KY
216 Rev. Jon Barnes, Lexington, KY
217 Rev. Mary Jacobs, member of FCC Orange, CA
218 Rev. William H. Jacobs, member of FCC Orange, CA
219 Rev. Dr. William Rose-Heim, Regional Minister Emeritus and member Independence
220 Boulevard Christian Church, Kansas City, MO
221 Rev. Mindy Fugarino, Independence Boulevard Christian Church, Kansas City, MO
222 Rev. Laura Phillips, Overland Park, KS
223 Rev. Dan Adolphson, First Christian Church, Minneapolis, MN
224 Rev. Anne Wilson, Healthcare Chaplain, First Christian Church, Minneapolis, MN
225 Rev. David Cobb, First Christian Church, Minneapolis, MN
226

227

228 Additional Resources:

229

230 [https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/new-state-documents-show-women-children-](https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/new-state-documents-show-women-children-and-elderly-could-end-up-at-alligator-alcatraz/3652009/)
231 [and-elderly-could-end-up-at-alligator-alcatraz/3652009/](https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/new-state-documents-show-women-children-and-elderly-could-end-up-at-alligator-alcatraz/3652009/)

232

233 [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/house-reconciliation-bill-](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/house-reconciliation-bill-immigration-border-security/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)
234 [immigration-border-security/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/house-reconciliation-bill-immigration-border-security/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

235

236 [https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/press-release/congress-approves-](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/press-release/congress-approves-unprecedented-funding-mass-detention-deportation-2025/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)
237 [unprecedented-funding-mass-detention-deportation-](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/press-release/congress-approves-unprecedented-funding-mass-detention-deportation-2025/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)
238 [2025/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/press-release/congress-approves-unprecedented-funding-mass-detention-deportation-2025/?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email)

239

240 <https://disciples.org/our-identity/>

241

242 <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/poor-peoples-moral-budget/>