

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

(Sense of the assembly)

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**Background**

**WHEREAS,**

On July 3, 2025, the United States House of Representatives passed the Senate's revised budget reconciliation bill, H.R. 1-119<sup>th</sup> 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 people<sup>1</sup>, 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 have been held in cages surrounded by water-filled moats and razor wire.

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<sup>1</sup> <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 deaths<sup>2</sup>; and existing cuts to USAID programs by sector have led to the following reductions<sup>3</sup>:

- 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).<sup>4</sup>

**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

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<sup>2</sup> Cavalcanti, Daniella Medeiros et al., *The Lancet*

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

<sup>4</sup> <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.

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228 Additional Resources:

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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/)

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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)

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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)

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

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