NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER
EXPANDING THE POSSIBILITIES

March 19, 2013

Dear Representative:

The National Women's Law Center urges you to vote "no" on the Fiscal Year 2014 budget introduced by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI). This unfair and irresponsible plan would devastate programs especially important to women and their families, including Medicaid, Medicare, child care, SNAP, and much more, while at the same time giving massive new tax cuts to the richest Americans and corporations.

At least two-thirds of the proposed cuts in the Ryan budget come from programs for individuals and families with low or moderate incomes, and that means women and children would bear the brunt of the cuts. The budget cuts non-defense discretionary programs by $1.1 trillion over 10 years – a category which includes child care assistance, Head Start, job training, Pell Grants, housing and energy assistance, domestic violence prevention, maternal and child health, meals-on-wheels, and other programs vital to vulnerable women and their families. These cuts would come on top of cuts already required by the funding caps established by the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) – which by themselves would bring non-defense discretionary spending to its lowest levels in over 50 years as a share of the economy. Such deep cuts could not be implemented without serious and lasting harm to women and their families.

The Ryan budget repeals the Affordable Care Act, makes drastic cuts to Medicaid, and converts Medicare into a voucher program. These changes would leave millions of women and their families without the financial security of high-quality health insurance, unable to access the health care services they need, and facing dramatic increases in their health care costs. Nearly 30 million uninsured Americans, including nearly 15 million women, are poised to gain access to high-quality, affordable health insurance, but this budget puts an abrupt end to these new coverage options. Under this proposal, women would lose protections from discriminatory health insurance practices, lose access to more affordable, higher-quality health coverage, and lose coverage for many of the health services they need. By repealing the Affordable Care Act, this budget takes a major step backwards for women's health and leaves millions of Americans uninsured.

Rep. Ryan's budget not only excuses the very wealthy and corporations from having to contribute an additional penny toward deficit reduction; it offers $5.7 trillion in new tax cuts. The Ryan tax cuts, which include lowering the top individual and corporate tax rates to 25 percent, would give the richest one-tenth of one percent (households with income above $3.3 million) an average tax cut of $1.2 million (without unspecified changes in tax expenditures), according to the Tax Policy Center. The budget claims that these enormous tax cuts would be paid for by cutting tax expenditures, but does not identify any loopholes that should be closed. The Tax Policy Center's analysis of a similar plan to lower top tax rates to 28 percent found that it could not be paid for without raising taxes on middle- and lower-income Americans,

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making even deeper cuts for middle- and lower-income people than those already in the budget, or adding trillions of dollars to the debt.

With record numbers of women and children living in poverty and an economic recovery that still has a long way to go, this is no time to cut supports that help families get back on their feet and investments that create jobs, expand opportunity, and strengthen the economy. We urge you to reject the Ryan budget and to support the fair and responsible budgets offered by Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), the Democratic Caucus substitute, and by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), the Congressional Progressive Caucus substitute. The Van Hollen and Grijalva (CPC) budgets would protect vulnerable women and families, put Americans back to work, make key investments in America's future, and improve tax fairness.

Very truly yours,

Nancy Duff Campbell
Co-President

Joan Entmacher
Vice President, Family Economic Security