

United States Senate

August 30, 2017

To the Honorable Board:

Thank you for contacting me about the federal budget. I appreciate hearing from you on this important matter.

The Massachusetts business plan relies on investments in health care, education, scientific research, and innovation, but this budget takes an axe to those sectors. Massachusetts is a bio-tech, clean-tech, high-tech hub, and Trump's budget puts our economy directly on the chopping block.

President Trump's proposed budget cuts \$800 billion from Medicaid, nearly \$200 billion from food assistance, and \$72 billion for disability benefits, all to give \$5.5 trillion in tax breaks to billionaires and special interests.

President Trump's budget robs the defenseless to pay for defense. The Trump administration would rather spend billions more on nuclear weapons that we do not need and cannot afford, while cutting programs like Community Service Block Grants that provide real security to American families. The elimination of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program will leave upwards of 200,000 Massachusetts households literally out in the cold.

The Trump budget aims to provide even more comfort to the comfortable in the form of massive tax breaks for the wealthy and increased defense spending, all financed by cuts from the most vulnerable segments of our society – the poor, the sick, students, and seniors.

Reduced funding for the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will have harm Massachusetts disproportionately. The Trump budget takes direct aim at our universities, hospitals, research institutions and their scientists and staff working on the cures to cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other deadly diseases.

Scientific research and development will be hobbled under this Trump budget, endangering America's global competitiveness. The Trump budget represents a full-scale retreat from American leadership in the global clean energy race. Without investments in new and innovative energy technologies at the Department of Energy and National Science Foundation, the Trump administration will hand over countless clean energy jobs to China, the European Union, and other global competitors. Massachusetts is at the forefront of our national clean-energy revolution, home to more than 100,000 jobs and thousands of companies in one of the fastest

growing sectors of our state's economy. The Trump budget also calls for turning over public lands that belong to all Americans, like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to Big Oil.

The Trump administration may call its foreign policy 'America First', but this budget makes clear its economic policy will make 'America Last'. I will continue to fight for a budget that protects hard working families and our most vulnerable, while making the wealthiest pay their fair share.

Thank you again for contacting me about this issue. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. To sign up for my newsletter, visit <http://www.markey.senate.gov/newsletter>. You can also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward J. Markey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator