

Creating a  
***Circle of Protection***  
 Around our Nation's Children

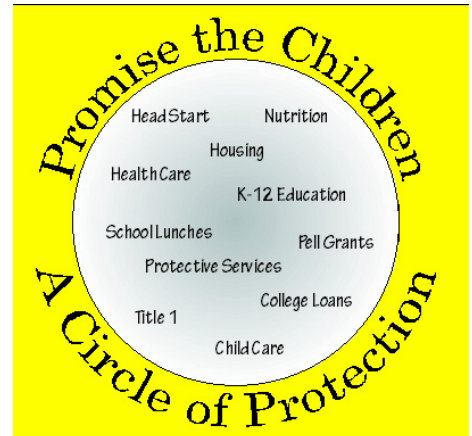


**Fact Sheet**

We are facing unavoidable choices in about how to use our resources and how we should balance the burden and sacrifices as we deal with our nation's budget deficit. As people of faith and good conscience we believe that these choices are not only economic and political but moral issues as well.

When we look at the proposals for the 2012 Budget we ask... Will children go to school hungry? Will schools have enough teachers, books, and desks for our children? Will all children have access to medical care? Will there be space in Head Start for those who qualify? Will children who want to be able to go to college and/or get the training they need to succeed?

Promise the Children has joined with dozens of other religious denominations and community organizations to promote a "Circle of Protection" around programs that have a dramatic impact on the nourishing and nurturing of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens.



There are real alternatives proposed for next year's appropriations. Below is a brief comparison of some children's program appropriations in the GOP sponsored House Budget passed in April and President Obama's Budget Proposal. \*The some of the House budget numbers are estimates based on cuts to 2011 final budget. Appropriations are in committees and no final numbers are available.

<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>GOP House Bill</b>	<b>Pres. Obama's Proposal</b>
Head Start	Cuts by \$1.083 billion, (15% decrease from 2010)	\$866 million increase (12% increase over 2010)
Child Care	*Cuts by \$39 million in the 2011 budget, (1.8% decrease from 2010)	\$1.3 billion increase (25.8% increase over 2010)
Education	Education appropriations committee meets in July 2011	Total tax spending up \$1.21 Billion (3.6% increase over 2010)
Children's Health Insurance Program	Cuts funding for the Medicaid program by more than \$770 billion over 10 year – creates block grants.	\$2.1 billion increase (26.6% increase over 2010)
SNAP (Food Stamps)	*Cuts similar to 2011 year-end cuts (10.4% decrease from 2010) Creates block grants	\$7.45 billion increase (portion dedicated to children)

Information from First Focus Making Children and Families the Priority

**(OVER)**

## Tax Reform

President Obama is calling on Congress to undertake comprehensive tax reform that produces a system that is fairer and has fewer loopholes. The Bush Tax cuts are allowed to expire and top corporate rates are raised from 25% to 35% while subsidies to oil and other industries are curtailed.

The GOP House budget would renew the Bush-era tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans and last year's reduction in taxes on multimillion-dollar estates. It eliminates the modest tax on high earners and wealthy investors that helps finance the Affordable Care Act. Corporations would see their tax rate drop from 35 percent to 25 percent.

## Other Threats to Children's Programs

The Fiscal Conservatives are aggressively pursuing an austerity agenda in a number of ways that will all lead to their ultimate goal – decreasing government's role in providing a safety net for America's families. They include a refusal to agree to increase the **Debt Ceiling**, A **Global Spending Cap** tying the budget to a percentage of the Gross National Product, and a **Balanced Budget Amendment**.

# Take Action

Join us as we raise our voices in this debate. We witnessed a groundswell of outrage by senior citizens over Medicare cuts and proponents of those cut back down. *Children cannot speak for themselves. We Must!*

## Join the Circle of Protection

- Call or write your Congressman/women and Senators and President Obama. (contact information at <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>).
- Send a Circle of Protection post card to your Congressional and Senate Representatives (download at <http://www.PromisetheChildrenUU.org/issues>).
- Hold a event or service at your church to educate and involve you congregation.
- Write an editorial in your local newspaper.
- Become a Promise the Children advocate by signing up to receive emails. Sign up by going to [www.PromisetheChildrenUU.org](http://www.PromisetheChildrenUU.org) .

## Get Involved!

For More Information

Call: Promise the Children

(978) 910-0190



Visit: [www.PromisetheChildrenUU.org](http://www.PromisetheChildrenUU.org)