



CIRCLE *of* PROTECTION

March 27, 2025

To President Trump and Members of Congress,

We, the Circle of Protection, are a coalition of church bodies and related ministries representing the breadth of Christianity in this country—Evangelicals and Mainline Protestants, Roman Catholics, Orthodox Churches, Pentecostals, Historic Black Churches, Hispanic Churches, and Peace Churches. Together, the church bodies in the Circle of Protection have close to 100 million members. We are united across theological, sociological, and political differences by our shared faith in Christ and the motivation it inspires to pray and work for a time when God’s kingdom comes “on earth as it is in heaven.” Our churches across the country are on the front lines of assistance to people in need in both rural and urban America and around the world.

As Congress moves toward a budget reconciliation bill, we urge that you not cut Medicaid, SNAP, and other poverty-focused, pro-family programs. We think our country should be doing more, not less, to reduce hunger and poverty. It would be wrong to take food and health care away from struggling families to finance tax cuts for high-income people.

Our experience in communities across the nation make clear to us that Medicaid and SNAP are lifelines for poor and struggling kids, adults, elderly people, people with disabilities, and families. Cutting hundreds of billions of dollars from these programs would have a big impact on health and food security among people of modest means. A federal decision to pass fewer resources on to state governments would harm many struggling families. SNAP already has work requirements. They deny food to families with very low incomes while doing nothing to increase employment. The work requirements for SNAP should not be made more onerous, and work requirements should not be added to Medicaid.

We welcome bipartisan interest in expanding the Child Tax Credit. Improvements in the CTC should prioritize the millions of children in low-income working families who do not benefit from the maximum child credit.

Most of the people who voted for President Trump are Christians, as are 88 percent of the members of the 119th Congress. So we especially appeal to the President and to Christian members of Congress to consider Jesus’ vision of the final judgment of nations in Matthew 25. Our Lord Jesus healed the sick and fed people who were hungry. But he also said that the nations will be judged by how they treat people who are hungry or thirsty, immigrants, people who can’t afford basic life necessities, people who need health care, and prisoners.

Please be assured of our prayers as you make important decisions impacting our nation's future and the well-being of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Rev. Dr. David Beckmann, Dean's Advisor, Virginia Theological Seminary; Coordinator, Circle of Protection

John Carr, Founder, Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, Georgetown University

Rev. Eugene Cho, President and CEO, Bread for the World

Rev. Chris Kellerman, S.J., Secretary of Justice and Ecology, Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States

Rev. Galen Carey, Vice President of Government Relations, National Association of Evangelicals

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, President, National Council of Churches

Rev. Carlos Malavé, President, Latino Christian National Network

Bridget Moix, General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Kerry Alys Robinson, President and CEO, Catholic Charities USA

Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero, President and Founder, National Latino Evangelical Coalition

Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, President, Sojourners

Rev. Jim Wallis, Inaugural Chair and Founding Director, Center on Faith and Justice at Georgetown University

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Co-Convener, National African American Clergy Network; President, Skinner Leadership Institute