



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**As Senate Considers \$3.5 Trillion Budget Resolution, Interfaith,
Jewish, Catholic Faith Groups Call on Senate to Pass a Moral
Budget**

**CEO Rev. Butler *“Congress must rise to the moment. I pray they
do what is right.”***

Washington, D.C. -- After Senate Democrats seek to garner 50 votes for the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation budget, a coalition of faith based groups are calling on Congress to pass a moral budget that helps those in need and tackles our country's most urgent moral challenges.

The faith groups include **Faith in Public Life Action, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Franciscan Action Network, Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action, National Council of Jewish Women, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd**

Rev. Jennifer Butler, CEO, Faith in Public Life Action

“As a pastor, I see budgets as moral documents and moral tests. Right now, Congress has an opportunity and a duty to pass a reconciliation package that is equal to the crises American families face. This historic moment calls for ambition and courage so we all can thrive.

Our nation needs a holy recovery from the pandemic, from decades of inaction on challenges like climate change and poverty, and from centuries of systemic racism. The draft budget from Senator Sanders is a promising step toward building a nation where every one of us is treated with dignity and can provide for our loved ones.

This historic moment calls for ambition and courage in Congress. The budget plan in front of us right now must be a floor, not a ceiling, for the final reconciliation bill. Our neighbors’ needs cannot be neglected any longer. Insufficient funding rooted in insufficient moral commitment is unacceptable. Congress must rise to the moment. I pray they do what is right.”

Stephen F. Schneck, Executive Director of Franciscan Action Network

“Saints Francis and Clare inspire us to put the vulnerable, the marginalized, the oppressed, and those in poverty foremost. With this in mind, we call on Congress to pass a faithful reconciliation package, one that addresses our country’s most urgent challenges for those in need. After

decades of inaction on infrastructure, poverty, the ongoing climate crisis, inequality, and economic injustice that disproportionately affects more than 140 million people across the nation, it is past time we adjust spending to better care for those truly needful among our sisters and brothers.”

Fran Eskin-Royer, Associate Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

“As the long shadow of Covid begins to recede, America cannot forget those who have yet to see a brighter day. Now is the time for bold action by Congress and the Administration to pass a budget worthy of a nation with great gifts and wealth that needs continued healing for its people, the economy and for the earth. Whatever your faith or belief system, how you treat the least among you and the earth reflects who you are and what you want America to be.”

Sheila Katz, CEO National Council of Jewish Women

“As an organization devoted to improving the lives of women, children, and families, the National Council of Jewish Women calls for a bold recovery package to do just that. The COVID-19 health crisis laid bare the lack of structural support and systemic inequalities that have long been present in our nation, in particular for women and women of color. Now is the time for investment in the programs, institutions, and infrastructure — both physical and human — that make our lives, work, and ultimately our economy possible. We call on Congress to pass a transformative reconciliation bill.”

Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block, Washington Director of Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

“Although the American Jewish community is very diverse, we are united in recognizing the fierce moral urgency to invest in a society that cares for everyone who is part of it. Now is the time to boldly rebuild from the devastation of the COVID crisis while transforming our economy and our infrastructure to be more just and equitable. Congress must not waste this historic opportunity to invest in a society that cares for everyone who is part of it.”

Rabbi Jennie Rosenn, Founder & CEO, Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action

“From historic heatwaves in the West, record-breaking flooding in the Midwest, to an ever-increasing number of storms in the Atlantic, the worsening climate crisis demands immediate action. With the future of humanity on the line, we must lift up a moral call to build back bolder. A budget is a moral document and the FY2022 budget resolution offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform our economy and society. Congress, hear our call for a just and livable future: We need a budget resolution with big and bold investments in clean energy, care, and good jobs at the scale that science and justice demand.”

Mary J. Novak, Executive Director of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

“After years of stagnant wages and the persistence of the racial wealth gap, now is the time for Congress to pass a recovery package that prioritizes Black, Brown, and Native American children and families who have been pushed to the margins by our systems and structures. A re-alignment of our federal policies with our moral priorities is long overdue.

“It is time to act boldly by permanently extending the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit; reforming our immoral tax code; creating a pathway to citizenship for millions of Dreamers, TPS holders, farm workers, and essential workers; investing in safe, affordable housing; creating a national paid family and medical leave program; and finally, as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring all have access to quality, affordable healthcare by closing the Medicaid coverage gap. Let us put racial and environmental justice at the forefront of

our shared recovery where they belong. We can build a new future together. We were made for such a time as this.”

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Faith in Public Life Action is a national movement of clergy and faith leaders united in the prophetic pursuit of justice, equality and the common good. Together, with a network of over 50,000 leaders, they are leading the fight to advance just policies at the state and federal level that affirms our values and the human dignity of all.