BERNARD SANDERS
VERMONT

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET, RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4504

332 SENATE DIRKSEN OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224–5141

1 CHURCH STREET, 3RD FLOOR
BURLINGTON, VT 05401
(802) 862–0697
1 (800) 339–9834

www.sanders.senate.gov

April 26, 2015

The Honorable Robert Bentley
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Bentley,

For better or worse, what happens in Washington has a huge impact upon all 50 states. As the Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Budget Committee, I am writing to bring to your attention some disastrous plans that are included in the House and Senate budget resolutions which are currently in conference committee. It is likely that final passage of the Budget will be voted on as early as this week.

In my view, the proposals contained in the Republican House and Senate budgets will be devastating for the middle class and working families of our country, and will move us in exactly the wrong direction. At a time of massive income and wealth inequality the Republican budget will make the very rich even richer, while causing increased pain and suffering for the middle class and the most vulnerable people in your state as a result of draconian cuts to important programs.

Here is a short summary of the potential cuts facing your state:

- Approximately 172,000 people could lose health coverage next year.
- About 32,000 jobs would be eliminated by 2017 because of cuts to transportation, education, and other programs.
- An estimated 280,000 working families would pay $1,116 more in taxes because of cuts to the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit.
- 1.1 million seniors could be forced out of traditional Medicare and into a voucher program.
- Prescription drug prices would go up next year by an average of $930 for 89,300 seniors who receive Medicare Part D benefits.
- The cost of a college education will go up for up to 153,000 students because of substantial cuts to Pell Grants.
- 570 fewer children would be enrolled in Head Start next year, depriving young children of quality care.
- Cuts to Food Stamps would put 902,000 people at risk of losing nutrition assistance.
- Investments for roads and bridges would be reduced by as much as $879 million.
- Title I education funding would be reduced by $17.9 million next year, which would deny academic assistance to as many as 33,700 children.
- 28,900 people would lose training that prepares them to compete for 21st century jobs.

Most of this data has been generated based on an evaluation of both the House and Senate Budget proposals by the Office of Management and Budget, the Economic Policy Institute, and the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. In some cases, the estimates are based on the House plan, since the

Senate plan was vague about how Americans would fare if it were enacted. The remaining data was generated based on projections from the Census Bureau and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

I'm sharing this data with you in the hope that you can work with your Congressional delegation and other leaders in your state on behalf of a budget that works for all Americans. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Senator Bernard Sanders
Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee