

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6100

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February 12, 2020

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi  
Chairman  
Senate Budget Committee  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Enzi:

We write to express our deep frustration over your decision not to hold a hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2021 budget request. When you failed to hold a similar hearing four years ago, we hoped that such an unprecedented move would not be repeated.

Refusing to hear from this or any Administration on its budget request is an abrogation of the Budget Committee's most basic responsibility. The President's budget request deserves an open and public discussion about the priorities it includes. Administration officials should be expected to come before the Budget Committee to explain the policy choices the budget puts forward.

For example, this year, the President's budget proposes tax cuts of \$1.4 trillion while at the same time calling for funding cuts for vital health care programs by a similar amount. Budget Committee members deserve the opportunity to highlight these proposals and question the inherent trade-offs they represent.

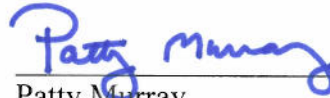
Moreover, the President's budget includes thousands of such trade-offs that affect every single person in this country. Understandably, many of these proposals will be controversial. However, this is the case for all budget requests. We cannot shy away from discussing these topics just because we may not agree with them or because they are difficult. Indeed, our constituents would benefit from an open discussion of these proposals to see where their Senators stand on the issues the President's budget has brought to the fore.

As we wrote to you four years ago when you made the unfortunate decision to forgo a hearing on President Obama's final budget, a budget is a serious matter and requires the engagement of Congress and the President. Our House counterparts understand this and will have the opportunity to hear from the Administration on the President's budget. We are dismayed that you have declined to provide us with the same opportunity.

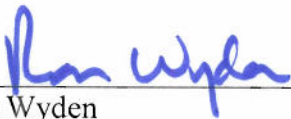
Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator




Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



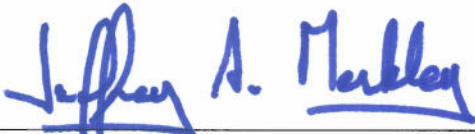
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



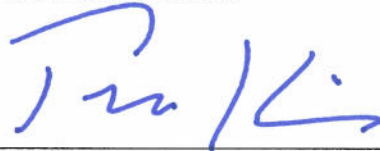
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



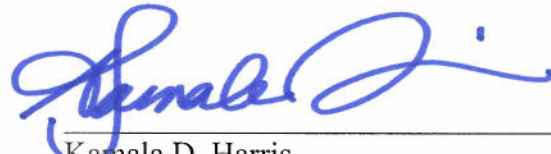
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator