

# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN REPUBLICAN & DEMOCRAT BUDGETS

## Protecting Core Human Services

- **HUSKY A.** The Republican budget restores \$11 million to restore coverage for 13,000 low income working parents who otherwise would lose coverage effective August 1. The Democrat proposal does not fund this.
- **1% COLA for non-I/DD Private Providers.** The Democrat proposal does not include a 1% cost of living adjustment for non-I/DD private providers. The Republican budget funds this COLA for all private providers.
- **Emergency Placement for I/DD Individuals.** The Democrat proposal does not provide \$5 million for emergency placements for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities contained in the Republican budget.
- **Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment.** The Republican budget removes the governor's holdbacks to mental health and substance abuse treatment. The Democrat budget allows the governor's holdbacks to continue, therefore resulting in funding reductions to these services.
- **Social Services.** The Democrat proposal does not protect certain core social services from reductions. Examples: vocations rehabilitation for the disabled and employment opportunities for the blind and disabled.
- **TANF.** The Democrat budget underfunds TANF. The Republican budget increases needed funding by \$5 million.
- **Aid to Disabled.** The Republican budget fully funds aid to disabled adding in \$1.4 million. The Democrat budget underfunds this item.
- **Old Age Assistance.** The Republican budget fully funds this. The Democrat budget underfunds it by \$1.8 million.
- **Aid for Hurricane Maria Evacuees.** The Democrat proposal only provides \$1.3 million for Hurricane Maria evacuees. The Republican budget provides \$400,000 for housing assistance and \$3.3 million for education support for those municipalities that received the most evacuees (municipalities benefited under Republican plan include those who have large influx of evacuees including Hartford, Waterbury, New Britain, Meriden and New Haven, for example).

## Protecting Municipal Aid

- **Car Tax Cap.** The Democrat proposal keeps the car tax cap at 45 mills. The Republican proposal reduces the car tax cap from 45 mills to 39 mills and fully funds for all towns and cities. Examples of towns which the Republican budget assists are below (shows the increased funding towns will receive under the Republican budget compared to the Democrat budget under this car tax cap change).
  - Bridgeport \$3.4 million
  - East Hartford \$1.9 million
  - Hamden \$2.3 million
  - Hartford \$2.3 million
  - Naugatuck \$1.3 million
  - New Britain \$2.0 million
  - New Haven \$1.2 million
  - Norwich \$651,997
  - Torrington \$1.5 million
  - Waterbury \$2.9 million
  - Provides all special taxing districts with appropriate reimbursement resulting in the districts receiving \$4.4 million more
  - Others

## Protecting Education

- **Community College Funding.** The Democrat proposal does not provide \$6.25 million needed for the Community Technical College System. This is provided in the Republican budget.
- **Vo-Ag Student Funding.** The Democrat proposal only increases per child reimbursement for vo-agriculture education by \$566. The Republican budget increases that rate by \$1,000.

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### Protecting Government Functions

- **Judicial Funding.** The Democrat proposal significantly underfunds judicial personal services, allowing no expansion of court support staff to operate the courts. The Democrat budget reduces personal services funding to the judicial branch by \$13 million and does not provide the funding needed for the newly appointed judges and support staff. The Republican budget provides \$13.6 million more in personal services than the Democrats' proposal and includes the required funding needed to support the judges and staff the governor appointed and the legislature recently approved.
- **Honor Guard.** The Democrat budget cuts \$131,000 from the honor guard, rolling forward lapses. The Republican budget does not reduce honor guard funding.
- **Energy Efficiency Funding.** The Democrat proposal only restores \$10 million to the Energy Efficiency Fund. The Republican budget restores \$20 million to the fund.

### Long-Term Fiscal Policies

- **Out Year Deficits.** The Democrat proposal contains no policies to reduce out year deficits. Rather, it increases out year deficits. **The Republican proposal reduces future deficits by \$2.7 billion more than the Democrat budget over four years.** The Republican budget out year deficits are LOWER than the Democrats' budget deficits by \$643.7 million in FY 2020, \$695.7 million in FY 2021, \$692.5 million in FY 2022, and \$714.4 million in FY 2023.
- **Unfunded Liabilities.** The Republican budget commits more funding to pay down state debt, the Democrat proposal does not. The Republican budget directs more funding to the State Employees' Retirement Fund and the Teacher's Retirement Fund.
- **Balanced.** The Republican proposal is balanced, the Democrat proposal is not. It does not provide sufficient funds to the judiciary branch. It doesn't address other deficiencies in the budget, therefore has built in shortfalls.
- **Economy.** The Democrat budget does not include any of the recommendations made by the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth. The Republican budget contains commission's proposals to begin building back the state's economy as follows:
  - a. Study on pro-growth rebalancing of state taxes.
  - b. Study on revenue and expense optimization.
  - c. Study on reforming of the Teachers' Retirement System.
  - d. Move state pension and health care benefits into statute.
  - e. Objective Review of SEBAC Agreement. Municipal Relief.
  - f. Municipal relief: make a municipal budget reserve of 15% or less unavailable for payment of the cost of any item subject to arbitration under the MERA or Teacher Negotiation Act; municipal employees affected by service sharing agreements among towns shall be represented by a coalition bargaining unit or a new bargaining unit representing all involved workers; implement language that allows municipalities and schools to have volunteers perform work such as buildings and grounds maintenance.
- **Transportation.** The Democrat proposal does not shore up the Special Transportation Fund or protect transportation infrastructure improvements in future years. The Republican proposal has both short term and long term transportation funding plans.
- **FY 2018 Deficiencies.** The Republican budget funds FY 2018 deficiencies to create a balanced budget. The Democrat proposal does not fund FY 2018 deficiencies, meaning that upon enactment their proposal would be in deficit. Deficiencies not funded include \$5 million for TANF, \$1.8 million in Old Age Assistance, \$1.9 million in Aid to the Disabled and personal services for the Department of Correction.