

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2180 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE
1919 SOUTH STREET, SUITE 1180
THE GEORGE MCKINLEY JELAND FEDERAL BUILDING
HOUSTON, TX 77002
(713) 655-0090

ACRES HOME OFFICE
6779 WEST MONTGOMERY, SUITE 204
HOUSTON, TX 77059
(713) 691-4882

HEIGHTS OFFICE
420 WEST 19TH STREET
HOUSTON, TX 77008
(713) 861-4070

FIFTH WARD OFFICE
3300 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 301
HOUSTON, TX 77002

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES
CONSTITUTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL POLICY
IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP, REFUGEES, BORDER
SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
CRIME, TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY
CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES
CRIME
TRANSPORTATION, SECURITY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE
PROTECTION
BORDER, MARITIME, AND GLOBAL CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES
AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH
MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA
EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA, AND TRADE

SENATE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS (TX-18)

**AMENDMENT 085 TO H CON RES 25:
ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 AND SETTING FORTH
APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015
THROUGH 2023**

RULES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT



MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013

Mr. Chairman, I rise to support Amendment 085 to House Continuing Resolution 25. I oppose the impact that the Republican budget will have on our jobs and economy, and hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting the Democratic budget, which replaces the sequester and helps our country's economic growth.

Amendment 085 provides that no reductions should be made in funding made available to NIH for research with respect to a cure of triple-negative breast cancer and any offsets would come from the Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terror.

Reasons to Oppose the Republican Budget

The Republican Budget Reduces Jobs and Harms Economic Growth. Putting Americans back to work is the fastest and most effective way to reduce the short-term deficit – but the Republican budget turns its back on American workers.

The Republican Budget Hurts Jobs

- The Republican budget does nothing to replace the sequester with a more thoughtful deficit-reduction plan. Consequently, the budget will do nothing to prevent the loss of 750,000 jobs that the Congressional Budget Office estimates will result from allowing this year's sequester to move forward.
- According to estimates by the Economic Policy Institute, the House Republican budget would cost 2 million jobs in 2014.

The Republican Budget Gives Windfall Tax Breaks to the Wealthy.

- The budget aims to lower the top individual and corporate tax rates to 25 percent, at a cost of nearly \$6 trillion, which Republicans say they will pay for by closing unspecified loopholes. Republicans would use all savings from closing tax loopholes to lower tax rates, particularly for businesses and higher-income individuals – at the expense of middle-income taxpayers, who will pay an average of \$3,000 more per family.

- **The Republican Budget Does Not Provide a Dime of Loophole Closures for Deficit Reduction** – The budget fails to reduce the deficit by one dime by closing even one special interest tax break, like those for big oil companies, corporate jets, and overseas tax havens.

The Republican Budget Slashes Critical Investments in Our Future.

- The budget's cuts to investments in areas such as education, transportation, research and development, and energy will weaken the middle class and U.S. economic competitiveness.
- These cuts will force our businesses to work with a less skilled workforce, an outdated transportation network, and reduced technological innovation.
- Eliminates Pell grants
- Doubles student loan rates

Breaks Promises to Seniors and Puts Vulnerable Populations

At Risk. The GOP budget makes major cuts affecting health care and nutrition assistance for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and children and families struggling to get by.

- Slashes Medicaid
- Ends the Medicare Guarantee
- Increases Costs for Today's Seniors
- Drastically Cuts Nutrition Assistance
- Assumes that the Affordable Care Act will be repealed

Top Reasons to Support the Democratic Budget

The Democratic Budget Helps Create More Jobs Now –

- Our budget will generate 1.2 million jobs this year compared to the Republicans' European-style austerity plan.
- Our budget invests \$200 billion in creating jobs up-front, strengthening the middle class, creating greater upward mobility, and ensuring our kids and future generations are able to pursue the American Dream.
- This includes \$50 billion to fund jobs that address immediate surface transportation priorities
- \$10 billion to establish an infrastructure bank,
- tax incentives to support small businesses and manufacturing.
- **Replaces the Sequester**
- **Makes Key Education Investments –**
 - \$80 billion education jobs initiative,
 - provides important investments in early childhood education and

to improve student achievement in elementary and secondary grades.

- We prevent the interest rates on subsidized student loans from doubling this July, and accommodate other student aid reforms that increase college affordability and completion.

- **Makes Key Investments:**

- Invests in R&D and Clean Energy
- Invests in Long-Term Infrastructure

Keeps our Commitments to Seniors and Preserves the Social Safety Net

- Preserves the Medicare Guarantee
- Protects Health Reform's Benefits for Seniors
- Protects Medicaid for Seniors in Nursing Homes
- Preserves Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) –

Reduces the Deficit through a Smart, Targeted, and Steady Approach

- Provides Tax Relief for Working Families and Ends Tax Breaks for the Wealthy
- Taking a Balanced Approach to Reducing the Long-Term Deficits and Debt
- Put the Budget on a Sustainable Path
- Builds a Stronger America through Long-term Growth.

Funding NIH Research

- In our debates over our budget, we cannot forget that investment in basic research is a crucial function of the Federal government.
- R&D dollars we appropriate today will invest in important basic research, which will enhance our understanding of science, including biology and medicine. This research provides important information on how to treat deadly diseases, including Triple Negative Breast Cancer.
- The Republican budget seeks to slash NIH funding. Failing to fund research today means losing out in the scientific break-throughs of tomorrow. We need to commit to funding basic research through institutions such as the NIH to ensure that we can treat deadly disease and maintain our role as one of the greatest exporters of medical knowledge and technology in the world.

Breast Cancer

- Today, Breast cancer accounts for 1 in 4 cancer diagnoses among women in this country. It is also the most commonly diagnosed cancer among African American women. The American Cancer society estimates that in 2011, more than 26,000 African American women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, and another 6,000 will die from the disease.
- Between 2002 and 2007, African American women suffered a 39% higher death rate from breast cancer than other groups.
- The survival rate for breast cancer has increased to 90% for White women but only 78% for African American Women
- African-American women are more likely to be diagnosed with larger tumors and more advanced stages of breast cancer
- African American women are also 12% less likely to survive five years after a breast cancer diagnosis. One reason for this disparity is that African American women are disproportionately affected by triple negative breast cancer.

- African American women have a prevalence of premenopausal breast cancer of 26% vs 16% for Non-African American Women
- Worse survival for African American women with breast cancer has been reported by the National Cancer Institute Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) registry, the Department of Defense database, large single-institution studies, and literature-based meta-analyses.
- After controlling for stage, demographics, socioeconomic variables, tumor characteristics, and treatment factors, racial disparity in survival existed among both premenopausal and postmenopausal women who were diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer.
- This racial disparity in survival among patients with early-stage breast cancer occurred in patients with both endocrine-responsive and nonresponsive tumors.
- African American women with breast cancer, especially those who are premenopausal, have a higher incidence of biologically more aggressive cancers with a basal-like subtype or that were triple

negative (ie, lacking receptors for estrogen, progesterone, and HER2 neu).

- The prevalence rates of the subtypes of breast cancer appear to differ by race. In studies of women in the United States and Britain, triple negative (or basal-like) tumors appear to be more common among black women, especially those who are premenopausal, compared to white women.
- Distribution patterns of established breast cancer risk factors among 890 young breast cancer cases and 3,432 population-based controls

About TNBC

- Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) is a term used to describe breast cancers whose cells do not have estrogen receptors and progesterone receptors, and do not have an excess of the HER2 protein on their cell membrane of tumor cells.

- There is no targeted treatment available for TNBC. The American Cancer Society calls this particular strain of breast cancer “an aggressive subtype associated with lower survival rates.”
- Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) cells are
 - Usually of a higher grade and size
 - Onset at a younger age
 - More aggressive
 - More likely to metastasize
- TNBC also referred to as basal-like (BL) due to their resemblance to basal layer of epithelial cells
- There is not a formal detailed classification of system of the subtypes of these cells
- TNBC is in fact a heterogeneous group of cancers; with varying differences in prognosis and survival rate between various subtypes. This has led to a lot of confusion amongst both physicians and patients

- Apart from surgery, cytotoxic chemotherapy is the only available treatment, targeted molecular treatments while being investigated are not accepted treatment
- Women with TNBC face 3 times the risk of death than women with the most common type of breast cancer
- Between 10-17% of female breast cancer patients have the triple negative subtype
- TNBC usually affects women under 50 years of age
- TNBC disproportionately affects African American women, followed by Hispanic women:
- More than 30% of all breast cancer diagnoses in African American are of the triple negative variety. Black women are far more susceptible to this dangerous subtype than white or Hispanic women.
- Women with TNBC are more likely to have distant metastases in the brain and lung and more common subtypes of breast cancer

- Breast cancers with specific, targeted treatment methods, such as hormone and gene based strains, have higher survival rates than the triple negative subtype, highlighting the need for a targeted treatment.

Personal Stories:

- As you know, these aren't just statistics: these impact the lives of real people all over the country.
- Recently, I spoke at a funeral for Yolanda Williams, one of my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas. Yolanda died from her battle with triple negative breast cancer. Like many other women who are diagnosed with this aggressive strain, she did not respond to treatment. Yolanda, wife and mother of two daughters, was only 44 years old.
- By putting more resources towards research, treatment and diagnosis for TNBC, we can help women like Yolanda Williams.
- Like so many women, I experienced surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and other effects including loss of hair. Now, I am

cancer free. I recently finished my last course of treatment. What a great feeling! Over the last year, I received exceptional care from the MD Anderson Cancer Center. I would like to thank the medical professionals, including St. Luke's Hospital, for the care and privacy they have given me. Houston is fortunate to have such treasures of healing in our midst.

- Thanks to this excellent treatment, I can now look forward to having many more years to enjoy my family, friends and to serve our community and nation.
- This experience has made me even more committed to working to cure breast cancer, provide treatment for those afflicted, and working to educate the public about breast cancer. As you know, early detection and early treatment are key to surviving this terrible disease.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman, I ask you to allow Amendment 085 to House Continuing Resolution 25 to come to the floor. We cannot neglect our obligations to fund basic research, and we need to remain committed to finding cures to terrible diseases like Triple Negative Breast Cancer, which affect the lives of women around this country every day.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, I yield back.