

NEWS FROM THE ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

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Ulster County Comptroller March Gallagher's Statement On the Enacted Federal Budget

The federal budget bill that passed the House of Representatives today is an unpatriotic exercise in cruelty. As the fiscal watchdog for the people of Ulster County, I am a strong believer in government efficiency. However, this bill is a mockery of efficiency and will instead hurt the people of Ulster County. Ulster County has over 17,000 or 10% of residents on Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program and over 48,000 or 27% of residents on Medicaid. No government program is perfect, and programs such as Medicaid and SNAP should be evolving to meet people's needs and operate as efficiently as possible. However, the goal of this budget is not to make programs more efficient, but to give taxbreaks to billionaires while exploding the national debt. This bill is a disgrace to our nation on the eve of our Independence Day.

Many Ulster County residents have reached out to me to better understand what the impact will be on their lives - whether it's the survival of their hospital, their concerns about federally funded employment or direct benefits - people are concerned. While some service impacts may not become apparent until after the mid-term elections, we will see substantial loss of services. Those interested can review our [Federal Funds Impact Report](#) from 2024 that identified the types of federal funds used and received in Ulster County. While we still do not know the full effects of this billionaire bonanza bill on local services, I give my word to the people of Ulster County that I will be evaluating these impacts and sharing that information with the public and elected officials as more information becomes available.

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