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Congress must fund the government, including emergency domestic priorities

Please sign this letter calling on Congress to pass bipartisan continuous spending and include emergency funding for urgent domestic needs.

Deadline: Monday, November 13th, Noon ET

READ THE LETTER BELOW.

Local, state, and national-scope groups are all encouraged to sign this letter. We very much hope you will sign and circulate this request to other organizations.

Text of Letter:

Dear Congress:

The undersigned organizations urge you to fulfill Congress' most basic duty: to keep essential government services running. Congress must pass a bipartisan, bicameral continuing resolution (CR) including emergency funding to address urgent domestic funding needs including nutrition services such as WIC, child care, energy assistance, the substance use crisis,

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(Food Security, Hou

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disaster relief, broadband access, and other critical priorities. We urge Congress to include the Administration's domestic anomalies and supplemental requests in the next CR. It is imperative that these emergencies receive the aid needed without being subject to any caps or offsets.

We urge you to support a CR, and ultimately long-term bipartisan spending bills, free of poison pill policy riders that are harmful and/or irrelevant to the functions of government. Such a CR will ensure that federal programs continue to serve essential needs while Congress works in good faith to finish FY24 funding legislation as soon as possible to provide for a robust, stable economy and a secure nation by sufficiently supporting the vital services that help our communities thrive.

Political gamesmanship has wasted precious weeks and resources. Congress must consider and address the nation's urgent funding needs by reaching an agreement on final FY24 appropriations without further unnecessary delays and political games. Despite the budget levels set in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, which in itself presents funding challenges for many programs and services on which we all rely, the House moved forward FY24 budget bills that violate the spirit of the agreement by including draconian cuts to non-defense discretionary spending, hundreds of poison pill policy riders, and significant recissions that, for example, would undermine our nation's fight against climate change and the ability of the IRS to hold wealthy tax cheats accountable.

The Senate has passed its first bipartisan appropriations package and the Senate Appropriations Committee has completed all 12 bills on a bipartisan basis, consistent with the bipartisan spirit of the agreement negotiated by Speaker McCarthy and President Biden. Congress must pass bipartisan appropriations bills to fund a wide range of important programs and services. Examples include: assistance with housing and child care for low-income families, rural

I am authorized to sign on behalf of this organization.

*

O Yes
O No

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development, support for education and job training, scientific and medical research, medical care, veterans' services, aging services, life-saving services for people with disabilities, environmental protections so we can breathe clean air and drink clean water, substance use disorder and mental health treatment, infrastructure investments including sewage treatment, public transportation systems and safe roads, flood control and navigation improvements, diplomacy, humanitarian aid and development, courts and reentry programs, public safety programs, assistance for small businesses, and many other programs to strengthen our communities. Ultimately, we hope Congress will recognize that the funding caps are unrealistic and harmful and that in the future, the appropriations process should start from what agencies and our communities actually require, not arbitrary numbers that are untethered from the realities of what the nation needs. Federal investments make our states, counties, cities, and towns run efficiently and serve public needs. States rely on federal investments for more than one-third of their budgets, to ensure the availability of essential services to workers, retirees, people with disabilities, and families. State and local governments are already facing cliffs as significant pandemic aid ends this fiscal year while urgent needs persist. Additional discretionary cuts coupled with this cliff would be deeply harmful.

In summary, our country needs Congress to push past the chaos and focus on the basics: keeping the essential government services running and passing bipartisan funding bills that place the needs of Americans and the public interest first.

Signed,

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