



October 27, 2015

600 MARYLAND AVE SW
SUITE 835W
WASHINGTON, DC 20024

Dear Member of Congress:

NDD United – an alliance of more than 2,500 national, state, and local organizations working to protect investments in core government functions – **strongly supports and urges you to support the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA)**. This deal, brokered by all four corners of Congressional leadership and the President, restores critical funding equally to both defense and nondefense spending that keeps Americans healthy, safe, and secure and ensures that we do not risk the full faith and credit of the United States by suspending the debt ceiling through March 2017.

p: 202.484.1100
f: 202.484.1244

The BBA continues the precedent set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 by replacing sequestration equally for both defense and nondefense over the next two years. In fact, the bill replaces about ninety percent of sequestration cuts in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and by about sixty percent in FY 2017. This provides Congress with an additional \$55 billion over the next two years to invest in nondefense discretionary programs that grow our economy, educate our citizens, protect them from threats at home, and encourage financial stability. By providing equal relief for defense and nondefense, this deal shows Americans that Congress can both provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare of this great nation.

Failure of this deal would mean a continuation of all of the harmful sequestration cuts that—as illustrated in our impact report, [Faces of Austerity](#)—drag down our economic recovery, deny children educational opportunities, leave low-income seniors without food, hinder scientific discovery, delay justice, compromise public safety and public health, erode our infrastructure, and threaten our ability to address emergencies around the world. It would also mean leave the Pentagon’s budget at sequestration levels, threatening our national defense.

NDD United urges Congress to vote yes on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 to replace harmful sequestration cuts with a balanced approach to deficit reduction. This deal paves the path to a bipartisan agreement on appropriations for the remainder of FY 2016, avoids a shutdown and a full year continuing resolution. Moving forward, Congress must also take care to avoid poison pill riders in any appropriations bill that will threaten the implementation of the relief provided in this deal.

Sincerely,

Emily Holubowich
Coalition for Health Funding
NDD United Co-Chair

Joel Packer
Committee for Education Funding
NDD United Co-Chair

WORKING TO
STRENGTHEN AMERICA

