

December 13, 2022

Dear Representative/Senator:

The prospect of the federal government unable to pay all its obligations in the event Congress fails to increase the debt limit poses an alarming danger to U.S. and global economic stability. Such a default would lead to a steep rise in interest rates, a global market panic, loss of millions of jobs and loss of trillions of dollars in household wealth. Those who threaten breach of the debt limit are playing recklessly with millions of lives.

That is why the undersigned 168 organizations concerned with meeting the basic needs of people with low incomes nationwide strongly urge you to use any procedural means necessary to vote before the end of the 117th Congress to increase or suspend the debt limit. While there are many critically important issues that must be dealt with in the remaining weeks of this Congress, we submit that assuring the U.S. government's capacity to pay its bills and meet its obligations is an essential act of responsibility that should be approved without delay.

Congress enacts spending commitments every year and also makes decisions about revenues. These lawful decisions have required the federal government to borrow money. If members of Congress refuse to adjust the statutory debt limit, knowing that Congress has approved spending and revenues that necessitate borrowing, they would be abdicating their responsibility. The consequences, according to a [2021 paper by Moody's Analytics](#), would be "cataclysmic." There is no doubt that the cataclysm, whether in 2021 or in the near future, would be most harshly felt by people with the lowest incomes, and their severe hardships would contribute to a downward spiral pulling the whole economy down. If Congress had failed to increase the debt limit in 2021, Moody's estimated that 6 million jobs would have been lost, unemployment would have risen to 9 percent, and a stock sell-off would have wiped out \$15 trillion in household wealth. Even the threat of a default in 2013 led to increased interest rates in short- and long-term Treasury yields, a cost borne by taxpayers. If there were to be a real default, Social Security, veterans and active-duty military would see at least a delay in their payments; if the inability to fund persisted, huge cuts in government services would occur affecting all federal services, including health care, housing, the military, nutrition, education, and much more. Investments we must make in our children would be severely curtailed; protections for older Americans would be harshly cut as well. We know how vital these services are, and how much your constituents will suffer if payments are delayed or denied. With so much global uncertainty due to war and the continuing global impacts of the pandemic, it is unconscionable to add to economic precarity.

With the prior experience that even the threat of default causes harm, we call on you to take that threat off the table, and to commit to a substantial increase in the debt limit or a lengthy suspension before the end of the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

20/20 Vision DC

ADAP Advocacy Association

Addiction Connections Resource

African American Health Alliance

AIDS Action Baltimore

Akron Bible Church

Alliance for Retired Americans

American Children's Campaign

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Geriatrics Society

American Society of Nephrology

Americans for Tax Fairness

Arkansas Community Organizations

Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Atlanta Pride Committee

Avenue Community Development Corporation

Blackbelt & Central Alabama Housing

Brighter Beginnings

Casa Baltimore Limay

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for Popular Democracy

CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers

Child Care Resources, Inc

Child Welfare League of America

Church World Service

Citizen Action of New York

Coalition Of Labor Union Women

Coalition on Human Needs

Communities Actively Living Independent & Free

Community Access National Network

Community Action Agency of New Haven

Community Action Partnership of North Central Missouri
Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County
Community Action Pioneer Valley
Consumer Action
Corporation for Supportive Housing
COVID Survivors for Change
Criminalization of Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
Death Penalty Action
Demand Progress
Dominican Sisters of Racine, WI
East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO)
Educare Learning Network
Empower Next Generations
End Hunger Connecticut!
FamilyAid
Feeding New York State
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Bank of Delaware
Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Food For Thought
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Full Plates Full Potential
Futures Without Violence
Gaithersburg HELP
Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness
Green Mountain Self-advocates
Habitat for Humanity Chicago
Health Care for America Now
Health Care Voices

Healthcare Alternative Systems
Heights and Hills, Inc.
Hispanic Federation
HIV Medicine Association
Hocking Athens Perry Community Action (HAPCAP)
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Indivisible
Inspirational Gospel Assembly
Island Harvest Food Bank
Japanese American Citizens League
Jewish Family Service of Colorado
Johnson Park Center (JPC)
Just Harvest
Justice in Aging
Kansas Action for Children
Kids Above All
Kids and Car Safety
Laradon
LeadingAge
LiveSafe Resources
Main Street Alliance
Meals on Wheels California
Meals on Wheels Orange County
Methodist Action Program
Mile High United Way
Mount Vernon United Tenants
Mt. Graham Safe House
Multi-Service Center

Natchez Housing Authority

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Alliance to End Homelessness

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

National Association for Hispanic Elderly

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of RSVP Directors

National Association of Social Workers

National Black Justice Coalition

National Child Care Association and National Early

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council on Aging

National Disability Institute

National Employment Law Project

National Health Care for the Homeless Council

National Homelessness Law Center

National Housing Resource Center

National Immigration Law Center

National Leased Housing Association

National Low Income Housing Coalition

National NeighborWorks Association

National Network to End Domestic Violence

National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies

National WIC Association

National Women's Law Center

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

New Hampshire School Administrators Association

New Jersey Association on Correction

New Progressive Alliance

New York StateWide Senior Action Council

Northwest Harvest

Office of The Rev. Dr. Chuck Currie

One Roof Community Housing

Patriotic Millionaires

Prevent Blindness

Prosperity Works

Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

Public Justice Center

Rachel Carson Council

REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.

RESULTS

ROC United

RootsAction.org

San Diego for Every Child

San Juan Center

School-Based Health Alliance

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership

Sisters of the Presentation

Social Security Works

Society of General Internal Medicine

Spectrum Health Care

St Francis Xavier Church

St. Francis Center

The Affordable Homes Group

The AIDS Institute

The Foodbank, Inc.

The Gerontological Society of America

The National Domestic Violence Hotline

Turning Point

Ujima Inc., The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

UnidosNow

United Church of Christ Justice and Local Church Ministries

Universal Income Project

Urban Resources Inc.

Utah Afterschool Network

Utahns Against Hunger

Valley Oak Children's Services

Voices for Progress

Voices for Vermont's Children

We All Rise

West Chester Food Cupboard

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

Westfield Community Center Association

Witnesses To Hunger NH