



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

1825 K Street, NW · Suite 411 · Washington, DC 20006 · 202.223.2532 · Fax 202.223.2538 · www.chn.org

April 25, 2023

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs, I am writing to urge you to **vote NO on the Limit, Save, Grow Act**. Instead of taking responsible action to ensure that our nation can pay its bills and investing in our future, this bill would bring us recklessly closer to default and recession while disinvesting to an extreme extent.

The [Coalition on Human Needs](http://www.chn.org) is made up of organizations representing people of faith, human service providers, policy experts, and labor, civil rights, and other advocacy groups concerned with better meeting the needs of people with low incomes. We know that our nation's shared prosperity depends on investing in our people. Ensuring that people have access to health care, can afford to meet basic needs such as housing, food, and energy costs, have the education they need, can work while their children are in quality child care, and are protected from public health and climate emergencies: these are essential investments that strengthen our economy.

In alarming contrast, the legislation before you this week would cut and cap appropriated expenditures to such an extent that economist Mark Zandi of Moody's Analytics estimates that [780,000 jobs would be lost](#). Over the next decade, shrinking appropriations well below inflation year after year would result in domestic priorities crashing to only 2 percent of GDP, the lowest it has been since the 1960's, assuming that the Pentagon and veterans' services would be exempted from the cuts.

Further, the bill would take food away from people who need SNAP assistance including [older workers in every state](#) and take health care from [millions of people](#) by denying them Medicaid coverage. In both of these programs, as well as in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), more bureaucratic hurdles would be erected, ensuring that people (many of whom are working) who need help will lose it. Please do not be deceived: this bill will not encourage work, any more than [Arkansas' failed experiment](#) with Medicaid so-called work requirements did, or the current [harsh time limits in SNAP](#) now covering 18-49 year olds. Large numbers of people lose benefits, either because they cannot comply with monthly documentation requirements, do not receive mailed notices, or cannot get consistent work hours each month.

This bill takes us in the wrong direction: it seeks to deny the IRS the resources to catch high-income and corporate tax cheats, despite three out of five people saying they are "bothered a lot" by corporations and the wealthy not paying their fair share in taxes. It would stop investments in renewable energy and funnel resources to fossil fuel producers. It would force lay-offs of Social Security Administration staff, further worsening service for retirees and people with disabilities. It would cut 101,000 child care slots and 200,000 Head Start placements when we need to expand access to affordable child care and early childhood education. It would cut more than one-quarter of rental housing vouchers, despite millions of households falling behind in their rent (earlier this month, one in eight people said they were [behind in rent](#), as was true of one in five people with children).

Constituents around the country within CHN's network have been expressing their strong support for protecting and improving Medicaid, CHIP, and SNAP, and for greater investments to meet housing, home and community-based care, education and other needs; so far they have sent over 435,000 letters to Congress. We know that just in the past few days, more than 36,000 letters have been sent to House members opposing the bill expected to be on the floor this week. These constituents join with many more nationwide who want you to build for our future, not jeopardize it.

The bill would lift the debt ceiling for a year or less. But because the proposals slash vital services are so extreme, the bill offers no genuine prospect of what should be a routine assurance that our nation's obligations will be paid. This bill pushes us closer to the brink of default, and we know from past experience that even the threat of default destabilizes our economy and costs taxpayers billions. A [default followed by quick action](#) by Congress to lift the debt ceiling would still cost the nation one million jobs. A longer impasse would be catastrophic.

We urgently beg you to pull back from this treacherous brink. Please vote NO on this bill and increase the debt limit to honor the obligations Congress has already enacted.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Weinstein", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Deborah Weinstein,
Executive Director