

Dear Senator/Representative:

The 260 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, 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 FY 24 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 rescissions 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 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,

ACA Consumer Advocacy

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

ADAP Advocacy

Advocates for Children of NJ

AFSCME

Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research

American Association of University Women

American Federation of Teachers

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

American Psychological Association Services

Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)

APLA Health

Ashland County Aging Unit Inc.

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

Association for Prevention Teaching and Research

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)

B J Enterprises CACFP

Bethel Area Food Shelf

BLM860 and GTA860

Brightpoint

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

Buen Vecino
California Association of Food Banks
California Center for Rural Policy
California NOW
Campaign for America's Future
Campaign for Working Families, Inc.
Campaign to Invest in America's Workforce
Caring Across Generations
CASEL
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Responsible Lending
Chapel of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Campus Ministry
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Action Alliance
Children's Defense Fund
Children's HealthWatch
Children's Trust Fund Alliance
Church of St Francis Xavier
Clare Foss Day Care
Coalition on Human Needs
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Fiscal Institute
Columbia Opportunities Inc
Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP)
Community Access National Network
Community Action of Orleans and Genesee
Community Bridges
Community Change Action
Community Child Care Council (4C's) of Alameda County

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Corridor Community Action Network

COSSA

Covering Kids & Families of Indiana

COVID Survivors for Change

Doctors for Early Childhood

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Peace and Justice Office

Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

Donleigh Recovery House for Men

E Center

Early Care & Learning Council

Earthjustice

Economic Opportunity Institute

Employment & Employer Services (E&ES)

Empower Missouri

End Hunger Connecticut!

Endangered Species Coalition

Epiphany United Church of Christ

Faith Action Network - WA

Faith in New York

Family & Children's Place

Family Crisis Resource Center, Inc.

Fellowship Baptist Church of Wyandanch

FIND Food Bank

First Focus Campaign for Children

Food Bank of Central New York

Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Food Bank of Western MA

Foster Care to Success

FREE Arizona

Friends of Buckingham

Friends of the Earth

Futures Without Violence

Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger

Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!

Healthy Teen Network

Hocking Athens Perry Community Action

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC

Human Rights First

Hunger Free Ameerica

Hunger Free Colorado

Hunger Free Vermont

Hunger Solutions Consulting

Impact Fund

In Reach, Inc.

Indivisible Marin

Interfaith Alliance

International Nutritional Sustainability Partners

James' Place Inc.

Jeremiah's Inn

Jewish Family Service of Colorado

Jewish Women International

Johnson Park Center (JPC)

Justice for Migrant Women

Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities

Lafayette Urban Ministry

League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County, New York

LEAN

Legal Aid Justice Center

Long Beach Gray Panthers

Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families

JustDane, Madison-area Urban Ministry

Make Hope for Development

Making A Difference Foundation

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

Meals on Wheels California

MECEP

MEO

Metro New York Health Care for All

MetroWest Legal Services

Mexico Food Pantry (NY)

Miami Valley Community Action Partnership

MICAH- Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing

MICAH South Dakota County MN

Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness

Middletown Senior Center

Mohawk Valley CAA

MomsRising

Montana Conservation Corps

MS Human Services Coalition

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Alliance to End Homelessness

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

National Association for Family Child Care

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

National Association of Social Workers

National Center on Adoption and Permanency

National Coalition of STD Directors

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

National Community Action Partnership

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Maryland Chapter

National Diaper Bank Network

National Disability Institute

National Employment Law Project

National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association

National Housing Law Project

National Immigration Law Center

National League for Nursing

National Low Income Housing Coalition

National Network to End Domestic Violence

National Organization for Women Foundation

National Urban League

Native Organizers Alliance

Navajo County Superintendent of Schools

NCWAT

Nebraska Appleseed

Neighbor to family, INC

Neighborhood Service Center, Inc,

Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies

New Jersey Association on Correction

New York State Public Health Association

Norfolk Raymondville Food Pantry/ Community Lunch Program for Kids

Northwest Harvest

Nourish California

Nutrition First

NYSCOC

Ohio Association of Foodbanks

Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

Oregonizers

Our Children Oregon

Oxfam America

PAI

ParentsTogether Action

Patriotic Millionaires

PbS Learning Institute, Inc.

Pennsylvania Utility Law Project

People Power United

Piedmont Habitat for Humanity Inc

Pittsburgh Food Policy Council

Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies

Prepare + Prosper

Preserve Montgomery County VA

Prevention Institute

Pro-Choice North Carolina

Project Feed

Project Hope of Gunnison Valley

Prosperity Now

Protect All Children's Environment

Public Advocacy for Kids

Public Citizen

Public Health Solutions

Public Justice Center

Red Jen Ford Health & Wellness

RESULTS Virginia

Resurrection House

Rochester NY RocACTS in Faith in Action.

S.W.A.A,

Safer Foundation

San Diego for Every Child

Save the Children

Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts

Sciencecorps

Second Harvest Food Bank Champaign Clark Logan

Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio

Secure Elections Network

Senior Care Management & Consultation

Service Employees International Union

Shared Harvest Foodbank

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership

Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, Iowa

South Florida Institute on Aging

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program, Inc.

St. Michael's Pantry

Survival Centers, Inc. (dba Amherst Survival Center)

SW WA RESULTS chapter

Team for WV Children

Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education

The AIDS Institute

The Energy Project by WSCAP
the Forum for Youth Investment
The Journey Forward
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
THE WOMENS RIGHTS INFORMATION CENTER
Thrive Alliance
Thriving Families California (Previously known as CAPP)
Union Local 1659
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Way of Northern NJ
University District Food Bank
Upper West Side Action Group
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
VALOR
Virginia Community Rights Network
Virginia Supportive Housing
Voices of Hope, Inc.
Washington Defender Association
Washington Education Association
Washington Food Coalition
Washington State Public Health Association
We All Rise
West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
West Ohio Food Bank
WIC Association of NYS
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Windham Area Interfaith Community
Women Employed
Women of Color/Global Women's Strike

Women's Rights Information Center

Young Invincibles

YWCA Rhode Island

ZERO TO THREE