

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy,

As we made clear this past May when you announced the debt ceiling agreement with President Biden, and as we reiterated again in [June](#) and [July](#), our Coalition stands ready to put partisanship aside and find common ground to fund the federal government and deliver on behalf of the American people. Unfortunately, the House majority has decided to abrogate the May agreement, and now seems willing to disregard its responsibility to ensure the uninterrupted operations of the government. Looking ahead to the September work period and looming fiscal deadline, it is imperative that we find a path to reach a constructive outcome.

Per the May agreement, the Senate Appropriations Committee has successfully reported out all 12 appropriations bills on a strong bipartisan basis and is beginning floor consideration. These bills include funding levels that reflect the bipartisan, bicameral budget caps enacted in the debt ceiling deal that you negotiated with President Biden and which we supported.

In stark contrast to the Senate's bipartisan approach, the House Appropriations Committee has run an entirely partisan process and has consequently failed to report out all of its funding legislation. The bills the Committee has been able to advance have passed along strictly partisan lines and include unnecessary "culture war" poison pills that leave the associated legislation with no chance of becoming law. Even more alarming, the funding levels enacted by these bills reflect a deeply unserious, hyperpartisan approach to governing — for example, the proposed Agriculture appropriations bill slashes funding by over 30% compared to FY23 levels, to a funding level not seen since 2007. If enacted, these bills would make deep cuts to critical federal programs, including programs that fund local police departments, invest in critical transportation and infrastructure projects, and make housing more affordable for families.

We urge you to reject the hyperpartisan approach and focus on passing government funding legislation that can actually become law. In the absence of viable appropriations bills from the House Appropriations Committee, we urge you to, at the very least, bring bills similar to the bipartisan bills that have already passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on the House Floor. Whether the Senate bills pass or fail, all Representatives — Republicans and Democrats — deserve the opportunity to show their constituents that they are working to responsibly keep the government open.

In addition, recognizing that the House and Senate are unlikely to finish consideration of regular appropriations bills by the fiscal year-end deadline, the House should expediently consider legislation in order to avert a government shutdown. Furthermore, any stop-gap bill should include President Biden's supplemental appropriations request to fund critical domestic and international priorities, from recent natural disasters and the fentanyl crisis, to the ongoing fight to protect Ukrainian freedom and sovereignty.

Finally, Congress must pass extensions of critical federal programs set to expire, including Farm Bill programs, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Flood Insurance Program.

As Members of Congress, our most basic duty is to keep the government running. Once again, as we face the looming deadline of September 30, we stand ready to work on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to uphold our responsibilities as lawmakers and ensure our government works on behalf of our constituents.

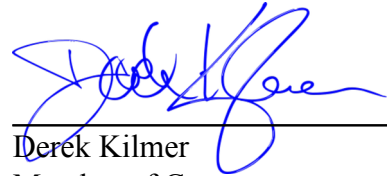
Sincerely,



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



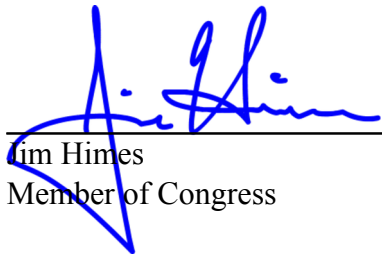
Ann McLane Kuster
Chair
New Democrat Coalition



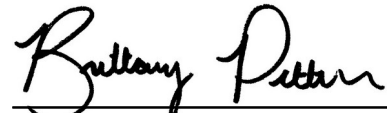
Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



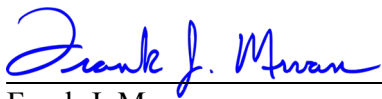
Patrick K. Ryan
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



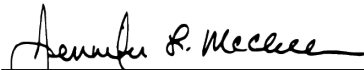
André Carson
Member of Congress



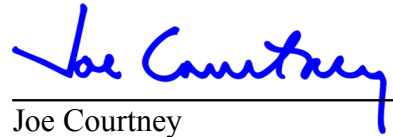
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



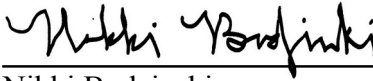
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



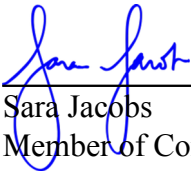
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



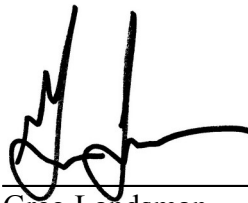
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress




Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
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Ed Case
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
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Ami Bera, M.D.
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Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



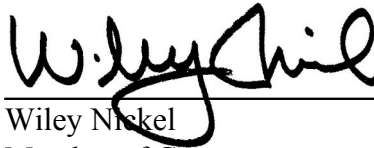
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



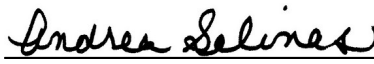
Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



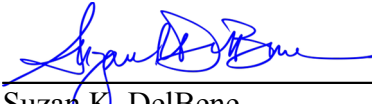
Andrea Salinas
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Greg Stanton
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Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



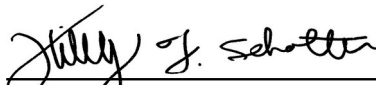
Suzan K. DelBene
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Madeleine Dean
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Jared Moskowitz
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Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



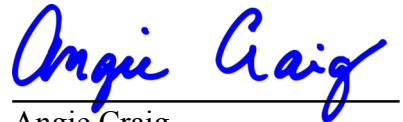
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



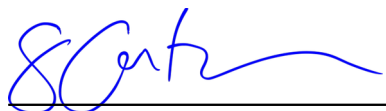
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



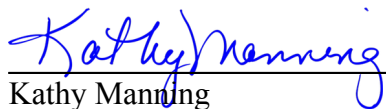
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



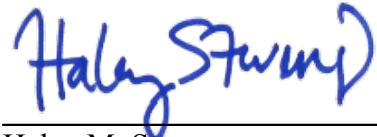
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
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Mikie Sherrill
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Elissa Slotkin
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Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
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Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



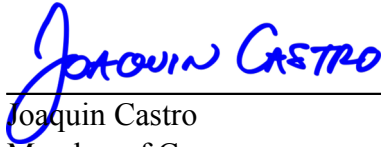
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



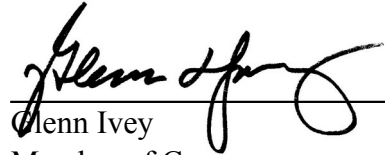
Donald G. Davis
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



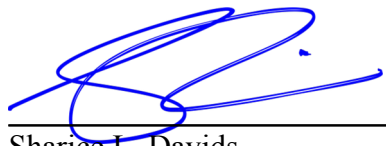
Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress



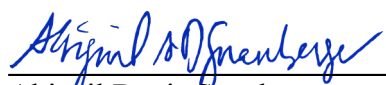
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



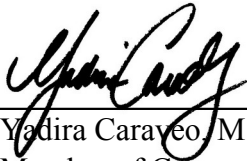
Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



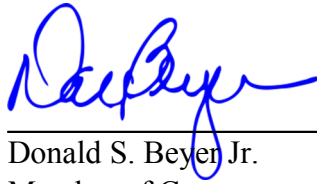
Josh Harder
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



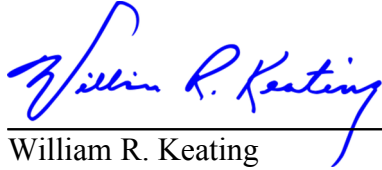
Yedira Caraveo, M.D.
Member of Congress



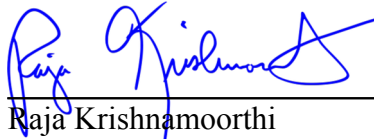
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress
Chairman, Economic and
Consumer Policy



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Chairman, Congressional
Black Caucus



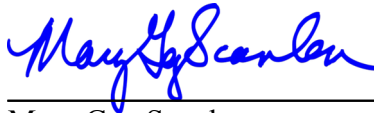
Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress