



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### After Avoiding Shutdown, Congress Must Get to Work and Raise the Caps

Now that Congress has avoided another painful shutdown, NDD United urges lawmakers to get to work on a bipartisan basis to invest in America by stopping sequestration and raising the spending caps, which continue to inflict unnecessary harm on Americans' health, education, safety, and economic wellbeing. Congress has less than 60 working days until federal funding expires on December 11. In that time, Congress must raise the debt limit, agree on top line budget numbers, and enact appropriations for the entire government. This leaves little time for procrastination. Therefore, NDD United urges lawmakers to resume work on fiscal year 2016 funding immediately and calls on Congress to do the following:

1. **Raise the Caps and Stop Sequestration:** With the expiration of sequestration relief provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, these harmful cuts will return in full force this fiscal year. These cuts will affect every American. To avoid sequestration's negative effects on the health, safety, and economic wellbeing of the nation, Congress must act to raise the spending caps to pre-sequestration levels, at a minimum. It's time to move forward on investing in our future!
2. **Maintain the Parity Principle:** Both the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 established a parity principle that treats defense and nondefense discretionary programs equally. NDD United urges lawmakers to maintain this principle in any deal to replace sequestration, recognizing the equally important role of both defense and nondefense programs in protecting the safety and security of Americans at home and abroad.
3. **Pass Omnibus Legislation:** A year-long continuing resolution would lock in sequestration's harmful cuts, and require an across-the-board cut to nondefense discretionary programs that are already struggling in this era of austerity. Operating the government on auto pilot does not allow Congress to examine and react to changing needs across federal programs. As a result, some programs may be overfunded, while others are underfunded and unable to meet new challenges. Responsible budgeting requires that Congress pass new appropriations bills, not assume that needs are the same year to year. We urge Congress to pass a final omnibus appropriations bill that is not held hostage to unrelated, ideological riders.

Today, NDD United and hundreds of advocates joined Representative Steny H. Hoyer (MD), Senator Chuck Schumer (NY), Representative Nita Lowey (NY), Representative Chris Van Hollen (MD), Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM), Representative Robin Kelly (IL), Senator Jack Reed (RI), and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) for a rally at the U.S. Capitol to reiterate these priorities and continue to put pressure on lawmakers to do what is right for Americans. Congress must work now to stop sequestration, raise the spending caps, and enact final spending legislation that is free from politically motivated policy riders. Only by working together can Congress avoid another shutdown showdown and invest in a stronger American future.

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*NDD United is an alliance of 2,500 national, state, and local organizations working to protect investments in core government functions that benefit all Americans. For more information, please visit [www.nddunited.org](http://www.nddunited.org).*

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STRENGTHEN AMERICA

