

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2016

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Today, NDD United, representing 2,500 national, state, and local organizations that support the full breadth of nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs funded by the federal government, urged Congress to swiftly pass a clean, short-term continuing resolution to keep the government running pending enactment of final appropriations legislation for fiscal year (FY) 2017. In contrast to the letter sent to Congress last week by only about 30 conservative advocacy groups, the alliance's letter urges that:

...A continuing resolution should not extend beyond December 2016—a period which, as demonstrated by the last two years, allows adequate time to complete the appropriations process. Punting decisions about FY 2017 funding until next year is an abdication of Congress's constitutional responsibilities, and an affront to effective governance.

Congress's "power of the purse" is vital to a functioning government and its ability to respond to challenges that Americans face. Through the annual appropriations process, Congress makes adjustments that reflect changing priorities, providing additional or new federal funding for emerging needs and cutting spending that is no longer needed. Continuing resolutions do not afford such necessary course corrections, and cause significant uncertainty for federal grantees and contractors working on the taxpayers' behalf.

NDD United also called on lawmakers to ensure that passage of a short-term continuing resolution is not complicated by ideologically motivated policy riders, a threat that could ultimately lead to another government shutdown.

With the return of sequestration in fiscal year 2018, NDD United also called upon lawmakers to quickly turn their attention to replacing the harmful budget cuts writing:

Upon passage of a clean, short-term continuing resolution, lawmakers must work in earnest to finalize spending legislation for FY 2017 before the 114th Congress adjourns, restore stability and certainty to the appropriations process in FY 2018, and lay the groundwork for replacing sequestration in FY 2018 and beyond.

The full letter is available [here](#).

NDD United is an alliance of more than 2,500 national, state, and local organizations working to protect investments in core governmental functions that benefit all Americans. For more information, visit www.nddunited.org.