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### **Congress Keeps Government Open, Adds to the Fiscal To-Dos for 2017**

Today, Congress passed legislation funding the government at last year's funding levels through April 28<sup>th</sup>, ensuring that services and resources that Americans rely on every day will be available through the beginning of next year. While preventing a government shutdown is vital to Americans' lives and the nation's fiscal well-being, NDD United strongly opposes the continued reliance on stop-gap measures to do so. Instead, Congress should meet its responsibility to make funding decisions that reflect the ever changing needs and priorities of their constituents. Governing by a series of continuing resolutions that lock in funding levels Congress set long ago abdicates Congress's responsibilities and creates uncertainty around the resources available to address our biggest threats and support our most promising initiatives.

It is critical that when the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress convenes next month, lawmakers turn immediately to completing appropriations for the remainder of fiscal year 2017. Not only will this allow planning for efficient use of government funding and provide certainty to American people and businesses, it will allow Congress to turn to decisions about fiscal year 2018 funding. With the expiration of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 and return of sequestration cuts to both nondefense and defense budgets threatening the nation's security in 2018, Congress must also find a way to provide equal relief to both portions of the budget or make painful sacrifices.

"The 115<sup>th</sup> Congress's fiscal to-do list for was already onerous with the delays that come along with a new administration, the return of sequestration, and the need to raise the debt ceiling," said Emily Holubowich, NDD United Founding Co-Chair. "Punting fiscal year 2017 spending bills into next year only adds to the burden. Lawmakers will have to finish 2017 early in the session if there's any hope of regular order for 2018."

*NDD United is an alliance of thousands of national, state, and local organizations working to protect investments in core governmental functions that benefit all Americans.*

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