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**Washington, D.C.** – This week, the House will consider the “Make America Secure Appropriations Act,” will include four of the 12 appropriations bills: Defense, Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction/Veterans’ Affairs. This package would fall far short of protecting the security of the American people in their day-to-day lives. The fact is that all 12 appropriations bills include funding for programs that keep Americans secure at home and from threats both foreign and domestic. Specifically, they keep our workforce trained and educated, and invest in infrastructure and research to protect our economic security. They protect Americans’ health by monitoring disease outbreaks, responding to biomedical threats, and implementing strategies to reduce chronic and preventable disease.

They keep our communities secure by preventing crime, providing support for those affected by it, ensuring our most vulnerable are cared for, and ensuring that our natural resources are preserved for generations to come. A strategy that prioritizes four appropriations bills over the remaining eight in the name of “security” neglects the Constitutional responsibility that Congress has to provide for the “common defense and the general welfare of the United States.”

“If the goal is to protect the security of Americans, the House strategy will fall far short, said Ben Corb, Co-Chair of NDD United. “Not only does this ‘security’ spending package curiously exclude the one bill with ‘security’ in the title, namely Homeland Security, but it also fails to recognize that our nation’s security is bolstered at home and abroad by all the spending bills.”

This new “security” spending package relies on a spending level for defense that violates the Budget Control Act’s (BCA) spending caps and breaks the longstanding, bipartisan parity principle between defense and nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs by increasing defense funding by \$72 billion while cutting NDD funding by \$5 billion, relative to the BCA limits. Practically, this spending package could lead to a breakdown of the appropriations process and risk a fiscal showdown this fall.

Rather than continue to go down a path that will result in additional threats to American security—including the threat of sequestration and another fiscal showdown—lawmakers should redirect their efforts to working on a bipartisan deal to maintain parity and raise the budget caps for both NDD and defense programs.

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