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NDD UNITED CALLS ON CONGRESS TO EQUALLY PRIORITIZE DEFENSE AND NONDEFENSE SPENDING IN YEAR-END FISCAL 2018 SPENDING AGREEMENTS

Congress must reject proposals to raise the sequester caps only for defense spending and to provide full-year appropriations only for the Department of Defense.

December 15, 2017 – In response to the introduction of H.J.Res.124, the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018,” NDD United, an alliance of more than 2,000 national, state, and local organizations, issued the following statement:

“The continuing resolution, or CR, put forward by the House leadership is not a viable solution to funding the federal government and is a violation of the precedent of parity set by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and carried forth in every bipartisan deal to avoid the impact of sequestration. Raising the sequester caps only for defense spending and providing full-year appropriations only for the Department of Defense fails to recognize both the critical role that nondefense programs play in keeping Americans secure in their communities, and the harmful impact of cuts to those programs over the last decade.

With the fiscal year (FY) 2019 appropriations season nearly upon us, it is critical that Congress complete work on FY 2018 soon. Congress and the President must reach a deal to raise the caps equally for both defense and nondefense discretionary programs and finalize omnibus legislation that includes all twelve bills. Until that time, lawmakers should pass clean continuing resolutions that provide enough time finish their work.

Continued uncertainty about federal funding is damaging to programs across the country that help Americans get the experience and training they need to get good jobs and the child care to work them. These programs also provide critical health, housing, and educational services and support homeland security and other safety services. Americans cannot afford to keep waiting for Congress to make final spending decisions.”

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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.