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**NDD United Urges House to Reject H.J. Res. 128, Reach a Deal on Funding the Entirety of the Federal Government**

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**Washington, DC** - In response to H.J. Res. 128, NDD United, an alliance of more than 2,000 national, state, and local organizations, issued the following statement:

NDD United urges every member of Congress to vote no on H.J. Res. 128, the latest continuing resolution (CR) proposed in the House of Representatives. This legislation abdicates the government’s responsibility to protect American security beyond the Department of Defense by increasing and finalizing one agency’s budget but providing only short-term funding at last year’s levels for the remainder of the government. We are already one-third of the way through the fiscal year; we urge Congress to quickly adopt a bipartisan agreement to stop sequestration and raise the defense and non-defense discretionary spending caps by equal amounts, which will allow for the completion of regular appropriations for the entirety of the federal government.

The Department of Defense is not the only federal agency providing for the national defense and security of Americans, and is not the only agency hindered by continuing resolutions and tight budget caps. Rather, when Congress forgoes its responsibility to provide for and set programmatic funding levels through the appropriations process, it also forgoes its authority to make adjustments that reflect changing priorities, provide additional or new federal funding for emerging needs, and cut spending that is no longer needed. Further, continuing resolutions impact the ability of those who rely on federal funding to effectively plan and optimize the efficiency of taxpayer dollars. Thus, whenever “regular order” fails and Congress resorts to a continuing resolution to keep the government running, such stop-gap measures should be as short in duration as possible, allowing only enough time for Congress to complete work on new spending legislation. The bill on the House floor today only accommodates spending adjustments for defense activities, keeping nondefense programs on autopilot for five months into the fiscal year.

In addition to extending uncertainty surrounding federal funding and its impact, this bill violates the parity principle set in the last two bipartisan budget deals that provided equal increases for both the defense and non-defense caps in light of the importance both types of programs provide in protecting and preserving Americans’ safety and security. As noted in our report, *Faces of Austerity 2.0*, years of erosion in funding federal nondefense programs have left Americans in communities across the nation less healthy, educated, career-ready, and safe. Increasing the defense budget without also making additional funding available for the remainder of the federal government will compromise the well-being of military families and other Americans here at home.

Americans’ security is compromised each day that the government is funded by continuing resolutions. With more than a third of the fiscal year now past, Congress must reach a bipartisan deal to stop sequestration, raise the budget caps, and provide full year appropriations for the entirety of the federal government. Such a deal should recognize the role of nondefense agencies in enhancing Americans’ security by maintaining the parity principle of equal relief for defense and nondefense discretionary activities set forth in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and 2015. Thus, we once again urge Congress to vote no on H.J. Res. 128.

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