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NDD UNITED: INCREASES IN SPENDING CAPS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Coalition representing nearly 1,000 federal, state and local organizations says budget caps must be raised to support critical programs Americans rely on.

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Washington, D.C. – "Today's proposal from House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth to raise discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 will provide welcome relief for nondefense and defense programs, and will give Congress the ability to appropriately fund national priorities," said Benjamin Corb, Co-Chair of NDD United, a coalition of nearly 1,000 national, state and local organizations representing millions of Americans who benefit from domestic nondefense programs.

The chairman’s proposal raises defense and nondefense discretionary (NDD) spending caps for FY 2020 and 2021, with the nondefense discretionary caps being raised by $88 billion to $631 billion for fiscal year 2020 (5.7 percent over 2019). The proposal reject the original spending caps that provided the framework for President Trump's FY 2020 budget, a plan that proposed historically deep cuts for NDD programs including education, job training public health, public safety, science, housing, natural resources, and more—programs that have already suffered after a decade of austerity.

"I’m confident that a budget deal like the one introduced today can be supported by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Capitol," Corb said. "Lawmakers who strongly support increases in defense spending will be pleased to see growth in that space while lawmakers who also prioritize nondefense programs will be equally pleased to see needed increases for nondefense priorities that are so vital to economic growth and security for all."

Today, NDD United will deliver a letter calling on Congress and the President to "work together to reach a new agreement that averts the cuts that would be required under the Budget Control Act and allows us to make smart investments in our nation’s future. In reaching an agreement, new investment must be balanced between nondefense and defense programs, as strong investments in both NDD and defense are necessary to keep our country competitive, safe, and secure."

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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.