ProsperUS

Speaker Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries Majority Leader Chuck Schumer Minority Leader Mitch McConnell Appropriations Committee Chair Patty Murray Appropriations Committee Vice Chair Susan Collins Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Kay Granger Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro

As members of <u>ProsperUS</u>, a coalition of 87 movement groups, labor organizations, think tanks, experts, and advocates across the country, we urge Congress to quickly pass appropriations bills – at least at the spending levels agreed upon in the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 – and to refuse to entertain legislation that guts critical programs so many Americans rely on. After all, the budget deal President Biden reached with Senate and House leadership already includes significant and painful compromises that directly impact the communities we represent.

Therefore, moving forward, lawmakers should emphatically reject further cuts in any final spending deal.

Unfortunately, just weeks after the passage of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the House majority <u>passed spending bills</u> with damaging and irresponsible cuts far below the already low agreed-upon levels. The House majority's proposals would hurt workers, families, and communities, particularly low-income people of color, by slashing investments in K-12 education, health care, lead poisoning prevention, safe drinking water, cancer research, and more. They would also empower the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations by slashing the resources that the Internal Revenue Service needs to go after wealthy tax cheats and recoup billions of dollars in unpaid taxes.

These cuts fly in the face of what the vast majority of people across the country want. <u>New polling</u> <u>from Navigator Research</u> shows that voters not only oppose additional cuts, they overwhelmingly support more public investments to strengthen the economy and improve the lives of workers and families. Specifically, Americans across the political spectrum strongly oppose proposed GOP cuts to Social Security, nutrition assistance, education, clean drinking water, and investments in life-saving medical research.

We urge the House to abandon the dangerous, partisan path it has chosen so far and instead follow the example set by the Senate and pass appropriations bills that, at minimum, adhere to the contours of the recent bipartisan budget deal, invest appropriately in critical national priorities, and can earn bipartisan support.

However, if this can't happen before government funding lapses on October 1st, we strongly urge you to adopt a continuing resolution that maintains spending at current levels and omits any harmful riders. We know that the American people overwhelmingly oppose shutting down our government to force unpopular and damaging cuts that will jeopardize the economic well-being of millions of families.



Simply put, there is absolutely no reason for deal-breaking and hostage-taking to be rewarded and encouraged by caving to the demands of a small, reckless group of radical members in the House.

We at ProsperUS understand that bold, equitable public investment will build a stronger, more sustainable economy that works for all of us, that significant public investment is essential to address racial and gender disparities, and that government spending that prioritizes people's needs has overwhelming public support. As you negotiate spending bills and work to avoid a completely unnecessary government shutdown, we hope that your work reflects our broadly-shared principles.

Sincerely, ProsperUS Coalition

A Better Balance Action Center on Race and the Economy AFGE Local 704 American Economic Liberties Project Americans For Tax Fairness Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO Association of Flight Attendants-CWA Autistic Self Advocacy Network Better Life Lab @ New America Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC) California Asset Building Coalition California Immigrant Policy Center **Center for American Progress** Center for Economic and Policy Research Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research Center for Popular Democracy Center for Science in the Public Interest Center for Tax and Budget Accountability Children's Defense Fund Coalition of Labor Union Women Colorado Fiscal Institute **Communications Workers of America Congressional Progressive Caucus Center** Daily Kos Demos **Detroit Action Detroit Disability Power** Economic Opportunity Institute **Economic Policy Institute**



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