



May 21, 2019

To:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speakers of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity and the millions of Americans we represent, I write to share our strong concern over the unsustainability of ever-rising federal spending and the danger it poses to our economy.

Last year, federal spending topped \$4 trillion for the first time, and the national debt is now over \$22 trillion. The Congressional Budget Office has repeatedly warned that this bleak spending and debt situation will only get worse over the next few years. Yet despite the many warning signs, Congress continually refuses to address this runaway spending problem.

Both parties are to blame – it is one of the few areas of genuine bipartisanship – and there appears to be no interest in fixing it. Congress has routinely broken the spending caps from the Budget Control Act, as lawmakers did in last year’s spending deal that increased discretionary appropriations by 16 percent above the sequester limit. This does not even count the billions in emergency spending now under consideration in the House and Senate.

America is walking headfirst into a fiscal crisis. We are deeply troubled at reports that, once again, lawmakers are planning to bust the spending caps and avoid the challenging but necessary work of getting our fiscal house in order.

Enough is enough. It is time for Congress to secure America’s fiscal future.

We strongly urge you to work together to **curtail runaway spending with sensible limits that allow for reasonable growth in discretionary spending**. Instead of smashing through the BCA caps, replace them with a new discretionary spending control that limits spending growth by a combination of inflation and population increase. Getting discretionary spending under control is a necessary first step to giving Americans a more secure future.

It is also important to **end the practice of budget-by-crisis that leads to last-minute, bloated spending bills**, none of which would ever pass without the looming threat of a government shutdown. A sound approach—like Senator Portman’s “End Government Shutdown Act”—would require an automatic continuing resolution for any appropriations measure not signed into law by the end of the fiscal year and include important incentives for lawmakers to work together to pass spending bills promptly.

Taking these steps would also act as a down payment toward responsibly funding our even larger burden in mandatory spending. The latest reports from the Social Security and Medicare Trustees implored leaders to “take action sooner rather than later.”

Overspending is a cancer in the Capitol. We will seek to hold accountable those lawmakers who support irresponsible spending levels that threaten the well-being and prosperity of Americans today and in the future. As always, we stand ready to work with any and all lawmakers who are willing to step up and secure our future by finally addressing Washington's reckless spending.

This is the time for action. We call on you to take the necessary first steps now to **impose a commonsense limit that spends at last year's discretionary level adjusted for population and inflation, and to end the budgeting-by-crisis practice with an automatic CR.**

Our network stands ready to aid those working to ensure that end. American taxpayers deserve no less.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent W. Gardner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

cc: Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney
Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Russ Vought