May 15, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The 760 undersigned organizations—representing the full breadth of diverse programs that support all of America, every day—are deeply alarmed by calls from some in Congress for very deep cuts in non-defense programs (often referred to as non-defense discretionary appropriations or simply “NDD”) for the next fiscal year and possibly beyond. Such cuts would be disastrous for the capacity of the federal government to serve the public, assist those in need, fuel innovation, and address national and global threats.

Non-defense appropriations are a small part of the federal budget—less than one-sixth—yet they fund a wide range of important programs and services that make America run. Examples include: scientific and medical research, medical care for veterans, environmental protections, assistance with housing and child care for low-income families, rural development, support for K-12 education and skills training, financial aid for college students, infrastructure investments in things like sewage treatment, safe drinking water, flood control and navigation improvements, diplomacy, humanitarian aid and development, courts and reentry programs, assistance for small businesses, and other programs for seniors, public health, and many more.

Due in large part to the Budget Control Act of 2011 and subsequent sequestration, NDD funding has not grown significantly. In fact, adjusted for rising costs and population growth, NDD funding is below where it was in 2010. Measured relative to the size of the economy, NDD funding is lower than the average from 1977 through 2022. The turn to austerity following the Great Recession, headlined by the Budget Control Act, had a detrimental impact on the recovery and overall economy, contributing to lower economic growth, higher unemployment rates, and poorer economic outcomes. Constrained NDD funding over the past decade means that many unmet needs have not been addressed or have grown. These NDD programs need more federal investment, not less.
In addition to pressing for deep NDD spending cuts, some policymakers have proposed multi-year statutory caps on appropriations, perhaps more stringent than those set in the Budget Control Act. Experience has demonstrated arbitrary and deep spending caps are equally problematic. Setting caps on discretionary spending for multiple years at a time is unwise and very dangerous since it is unrealistic to attempt to anticipate circumstances and needs further into the future. Doing so would create the risk of serious shortfalls.

Together we call on Congress to reject cuts to NDD appropriations and instead set funding for fiscal year 2024 at a level that recognizes both rising costs and the need for investment in programs important to fostering economic growth and meeting human needs. This principle should apply to all mechanisms used to set appropriations totals, including statutory caps, congressional budget resolutions, and the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days, An Initiative of FHI Solutions
350.org
A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
AASA, The School Superintendents Association
ABIM Foundation
Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AcademyHealth
Accessia Health
Actors' Equity Association
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
After Innocence
Afterschool Alliance
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Foundation Chicago
AIDS United
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program
Alabama Innocence Project
All4Ed
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance Care 360
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
Alzheimer's Los Angeles
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Alliance of Museums
American Anthropological Association
American Association for College Pharmacy
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniomaxillofacial Research
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American Astronomical Society
American Atheists
American Brain Coalition
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)
American Chemical Society
American Chiropractic Association
American College of Physicians
American Council on Education
American Counseling Association
American Educational Research Association
American Epilepsy Society
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geophysical Union (AGU)
American Geriatrics Society
American Heart Association
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine
American Leprosy Missions
American Library Association
American Lung Association
American Mathematical Society
American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)
American Mosquito Control Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physiological Society
American Political Science Association
American Psychological Association
American Psychological Association Services
American Public Health Association
American Rivers
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR)
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society for Virology
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology (ASCP)
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Human Genetics
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Neuroradiology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Society of Primatologists (ASP)
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American String Teachers Association
American Urogynecology Society
Americans for the Arts
AnitaB.org
Anxiety and Depression Association of America
APLA Health
Aquatic Plant Management Society
Arbor Research Collaborative for Health
Arizona Center for Economic Progress
Arthritis Foundation
Arts Education in Maryland Schools
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Associate Vice President, Government and External Relations, ETS
Associated Executives of Mosquito Control in New Jersey
Association for Career and Technical Education
Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS)
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association for Psychological Science
Association for Women in Science
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities (AAU)
Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)
Association of Ecosystem Research Centers
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of Independent Research Institutes
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS)
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Center New Hampshire
Disability Rights Center of Kansas
Disability Rights Florida
Disability Rights Iowa
Disability Rights Louisiana
Disability Rights Maine
Disability Rights Mississippi
Disability Rights New Jersey
Disability Rights New Mexico
Disability Rights New York
Disability Rights North Carolina
Disability Rights Oregon
Disability Rights South Carolina
Disability Rights Tennessee
Disability Rights Vermont
Disability Rights Washington
Division of Child and Family Services
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Peace and Justice Office
Dream.org
Drug Policy Alliance
Duke University
Earthjustice
EBQ Consulting, LLC
Ecological Society of America
Economic Opportunity Institute
Economic Policy Institute
Ecumen Parmly Lakeview Apartment
EDGE Consulting Partners
Educare Learning Network
Education Reform Now
Education Through Music
Educators for Excellence
Elevate
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Empower Missouri
Endocrine Society
Energy Sciences Coalition
Enterprise Community Partners
Entomological Society of America
Epilepsy Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation of America (EFA)
Epilepsy Foundations of America (EFA)
Equality California
Eskaton Lincoln Manor
Esperanza United (formerly Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network)
Ethnic Communities Opioid Response Network-Missouri
Eventide, A Senior Living Community
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Faces & Voices of Recovery
Fair Chance Project/Families United to End LWOP
Faith in Harm Reduction
Family Values @ Work
Federation of American Scientists
Felmers O Chaney Advocacy Board (FCAB)
Fenway Health
Fight Colorectal Cancer
First Planning District Workforce Board
Florida CASE
Focused Ultrasound Foundation
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
Forum for Youth Investment
Foundation for Sarcoïdosis Research
Friedreich’s Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Funders Concerned About AIDS
Futures Without Violence
Geaux Jobs- LWDA 20
Geological Society of America
Georgia Council for Exceptional Children
Georgia Council for Learning Disabilities
Georgia Mosquito Control Association
Georgia-Council of Administrators of Special Education
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)
Global Campaign for Education-US
Global Health Council
Global Health Technologies Coalition
GO2 for Lung Cancer
Golden State Opportunity
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Great Lakes Bay Michigan Works!
Great Plains Association for College Admission Counseling (GPACAC)
Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels
Groundwork Collaborative
GST Michigan Works!
Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) Chronic
Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP) Foundation International (GBSCDIP)
Habitat for Humanity International
Harvard University
Hawai’i Music Educators Association
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Health GAP (Global Access Project)
HealthDataViz
Healthy Teen Network
HealthyWomen
Helminthological Society of Washington
HelpAge USA
Hemophilia Federation of America
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE)
Hilarity for Charity (HFC)
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
HIV Medicine Association
Hope Charities
Housing Action Illinois
Housing Works, Inc.
Houston Science Policy and Advocacy Group
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society
Humanity Speaks
Hydrocephalus Association
IAVI
Iberia Parish Mosquito Abatement District
IC&RC
Idaho Innocence Project
Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education
Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling
Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission
Illinois Psychological Association
Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness
ImmSchools
Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE)
Indiana Disability Rights
Indy Hunger Network
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Inn...
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education.
Ouachita Workforce Board 81
Overdose Crisis Response Fund
Oxfam America
PA Education Association
PaCASE-Pennsylvania Council of Administrators of Special Education
Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling
PAI
Parents as Teachers
PATH
Pennsylvania Music Educators Association
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
People Power United
People with Empathy
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Platelet Disorder Support Association (PDSA)
Playworks
Population Association of America
Postpartum Support International
Poverty Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
Power to Decide
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Blindness Georgia
Prevent Blindness Iowa
Prevent Blindness North Carolina
Prevent Blindness Wisconsin
Prevent Blindness, Ohio Affiliate
Project Sleep
Prosperity Now
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Citizen
Public Health Solutions
Public Housing Authorities Directors Association
Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
PWN-USA
Radiological Society of North America
Rainbow Cafe LGBTQ Center
Ramona Senior Center
Rebuild America’s Schools
Research!America
Respectful Ways trauma-informed curriculum
RESULTS
Results for America
ReSurge International
Richland County Vector Control
Rocky Mountain Innocence Center
Rural School Advocates of Iowa (RSAI)
Rural Schools Association of New York State
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Safe States Alliance
Safer Foundation
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Sandra L. Noe
Sandy Hook Promise
Save the Children
School Culture and Climate Initiative
School Social Work Association of America
School-Based Health Alliance
SchoolHouse Connection
Second Wind Dreams
SEL4NJ
SEL4TX
Service Year Alliance
Sexual Violence Prevention Association (SVPA)
Shot@Life
Silver State Equality-Nevada
Sixth Planning District Local Workforce Development Board Area 60
SkillSource Regional Workforce Board
SMART Recovery
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC)
Society for Neuroscience
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Systematic Biologists
Society of Women Engineers
Soil Science Society of America
Sojourners
Solve M.E.
Southeastern Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
Spina Bifida Association
Stand for Children
Start Early
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Stony Brook University
Stop TB USA
Susan G. Komen
Synergenics, LLC.
Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council
Tahirih Justice Center
TB Alliance
cc: Chair Patty Murray, Senate Appropriations Committee
Vice Chair Susan Collins, Senate Appropriations Committee
Chair Kay Granger, House Appropriations Committee
Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Appropriations Committee