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 Craniofacial 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 & Electromyography
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American Association for College Pharmacy
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
Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease
Midwest Innocence Project
Miles for Migraine
Mind the Class
Minnesota Administrators for Special Education
Minnesota Music Educators Association
Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education
MomsRising
Monroe Electrical Training Alliance
Montana Innocence Project
Monticello Central School District
Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM)
Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California
Mothers Voices Georgia
MPact Global Action
Murray County Schools
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Music Travel Consultants
NAMI Barrington Area
NAMI Illinois
NAMI South Suburbs of Chicago
NAPHSIS
NASTAD
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Adult Day Services Association
National Adult Protective Services Association
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA)
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Organization
National Association for Hispanic Elderly
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Music Education
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of Graduate and Professional Students
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM)
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Plant Breeders
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of Social Workers (NASW) - Colorado Chapter
National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter
National Association of Social Workers, New York State
National Association of Social Workers, Oregon Chapter
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Association of VA Physicians and Dentists
National Association of Vector-Borne Disease Control Officials
National Association of Veterans Research and Education Foundation
National Association of Workforce Boards
National Ataxia Foundation
National Behavioral Health Association of Providers
National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC)
National Center for Families Learning
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Center for Teacher Residencies (NCTR)
National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research
National Coalition for Literacy
National Coalition of STD Directors
National College Attainment Network
National Community Development Association
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions (NCDHP)
National Council of Churches
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Maryland Chapter
National Crittenton
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Disease Research Interchange
National Eating Disorders Association
National Eczema Association
National Employment Law Project
National Harm Reduction Coalition
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Council
National Healthy Start Association
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Housing Resource Center
National Indian Education Association
National Juvenile Justice Network
National Kidney Foundation
National Leased Housing Association
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National National for Youth
National Network for Youth
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia
National Organization for Women
National Pancreas Foundation (NPF)
National Parks Conservation Association
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Postdoctoral Association
National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
National Psoriasis Foundation
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Health Association
National Safety Council
National Skills Coalition
National Summer Learning Association
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Task Group / ID & Dementia Practices
National Women's Law Center
Native American Disability Law Center
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Natural Science Collections Alliance
NCJW PA
Nebraska CASE - NASES
NELA Alliance aka Northeast Louisiana Economic Alliance
Nephcure Kidney International
Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center
Never Use Alone Inc.
New Jersey Mosquito Control Association
New Leaders
New York Academy of Medicine
New York Council Of Administrators of Special Education
Newfield CSD
NH Association of Special Education Administrators
NMAC
North American Vascular Biology Organization
North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence
North Carolina Mosquito and Vector Control Association
North Carolina Music Educators Association
North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project
Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases
Northern California Innocence Project
Northern Illinois University
Northwest Michigan Works!
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
NREA
NREAC
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)
Oakland County Michigan Works!
OCHIN
Ohio Innocence Project
Ohio's Hospice
OHSU
Oklahoma Disability Law Center
OraSure Technologies Inc
Oregon Music Education Association
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
World Learning
World Vision
WURRLYedu
YMCA of the USA
Young People in Recovery
Youth First
YouthBuild USA

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