May 15, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer  The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader  Speaker
United States Senate  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader  Minority Leader
United States Senate  U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20515

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

The 762 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 Internship 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 & Electromyological Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of Teacher Educators
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 Dental Education 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 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 Public Health Laboratories
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO)
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of the Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of University Professors of Neurology
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology
Atlanta University Center Consortium
Atlantis Industries, Inc.
Autism Society of America
AVAC
Axis Advocacy
AZCASE
Basic Education Coalition
Baylor College of Medicine
BCCIL
Big Cities Health Coalition
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science
BioQUEST Curriculum Consortium
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Boys Town
BrightFocus Foundation
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
CA CASE
CAEAR Coalition
California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice
California Music Educators Association
Carbon180
CARE
Care 2 Prevent
CareerSource Capital Region
Center for Disability Rights
Center for Justice and Human Dignity
Chalk Talk Science Project
Champaign County Health Care Consumers
Chicago Jobs Council
Chicago Women's AIDS Project
Chiefs for Change
Child Neurology Foundation
Childhood Education International
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Action Alliance
Children's Hospital Association
Christian Connections for International Health
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
City Year, Inc.
ClearCure Biosciences, Inc.
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
Coalition on Human Needs
Coalition for Juvenile Justice
Coalition for National Science Funding
Coalition for the Life Sciences
Code.org
CoGenerate
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning
Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning
Committee for Children
Committee for Education Funding (CEF)
Community Behavioral Healthcare Association (CBHA)
Computing Research Association
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Connecticut Association for Human Services
Conservation Legacy
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cornell University
Council for Exceptional Children
Council for Opportunity in Education (COE)
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Council of the Great City Schools
Council on Undergraduate Research
COVID Survivors for Change
Craft Emergency Relief Fund (CERF+)
Crop Science Society of America
Cure Alzheimer's Fund
cureCADASIL
Cyb Llings, Inc
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Defenders of Wildlife
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
Digestive Diseases National Coalition (DDNC)
Disabilities Law Program of Community Legal Aid Society
Disability Law Center
Disability Law Center Massachusetts
Disability Law Colorado
Disability Rights Arkansas
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 Sarcoidosis 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
Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
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
Music Teachers National Association
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
National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Natural Science Collections Alliance
NCIW 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
Workforce Operations Area 61
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