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—but 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 Alliance of Museums
American Anthropological Association
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 the Advancement of Science
American Association of the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of University Professors
American Astronomical Society
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
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
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
Innocence Project
Innocence Project of Florida, Inc.
Institute for Educational Leadership
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
InterAction
International Association for Indigenous Aging
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care
International Public Health Advisors
International Safety Equipment Association
Interstitial Cystitis Association (ICA)
IntraHealth International
Ipas
Jazz at Lincoln Center

Jewish Women International
Josselyn
Just Future Project
Justice in Aging
Justice Strategies
Keck School of Medicine of USC
Kentucky Innocence Project
KIPP Public Schools
Knowledge Alliance
Lasker Foundation
Latinos for Education
LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease)
LeadingAge
League of Conservation Voters
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Legal Council for Health Justice
Legal Rights Center
Lehigh University
Life Unbolted Inc.
Linguistic Society of America
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
Lupus Research Alliance
LWDB 21
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
Lyons Industries, Inc.
Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition
Management Sciences for Health
March of Dimes
Mass General Brigham
Maternity Care Coalition
Mathematical Association of America
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
M-CM Network
Meals on Wheels America
Meals on Wheels California
Meals on Wheels of Hillsborough County
Medical Library Association
Medicare Rights Center
Melanoma Research Foundation
Memorial Behavioral Health
Mental Health America
MENTOR
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
METAvivor
Michigan Music Education Association
Michigan State University
Michigan Works! Association
Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium
Michigan Works! Southwest
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
Natural 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
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
Teach For America
Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TED)
The Advocacy Institute
The AIDS Institute
The American College of Preventive Medicine
The American Orff-Schulwerk Association
The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)
The Brain Donor Project
THE BRAIN TRUTH
The Breakthrough Institute
The Center for Educational Equity at Teachers College, Columbia University
The Coalition for Health Funding
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
The Corps Network
The Education Trust
The END Fund
The Exoneration Project
The George Washington University
The Gerontological Society of America
The Juniper Center
The Kennedy Forum
The Lundquist Institute
The Mended Hearts, Inc.
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
The Porchlight Collective SAP
The Seventh Planning District Consortium
Workforce Board (LWDA 70)
The Shriver Center at UMBC
The Shriver Center on Poverty Law
The STARR Coalition
The Wilderness Society
Thresholds
Together for Girls
Tourette Association of America
TPAN
Transgender Resilience Project
Treatment Action Group
Treatment Communities of America
Trust for America's Health

Trust for Public Land
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM)
UAB Heersink School of Medicine
UC San Francisco
UCLA
UMass Chan Medical School
UnidosUS
United to Beat Malaria
University of California System
University of California, San Diego
University of Colorado System
University of Connecticut, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Michigan
University of Rochester
University of Virginia
Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!
Urban Education Network of Iowa (UEN)
Urban Underground
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
USAging
USF School of Law Racial Justice Clinic
UVA Health
Vector Disease Control International
Vel R. Phillips School
Vermont Arts Council
Virginia CASE (VCASE)
Virginia Music Educators Association
Voices for National Service
Voices for Progress
Voices of Hope, Inc.
Warm Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia (wAIHA) Warriors
Washington CASE
Washington State University
WaterAid America
We Are TB
Weed Science Society of America
West Virginia University
Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine
Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services
Wisconsin Music Educators Association
WomenHeart
Women's Refugee Commission
Workforce Development 83
Workforce Development Board #51
Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio
Workforce Development Board SDA-83, Inc.