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 & Electromyological Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of Service Coordinators
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
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 Services
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
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)
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
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
METAiivor
Michigan Music Education Association
Michigan State University
Michigan Works! Association
Michigan Works! Northeast Consortium
Michigan Works! Southwest
Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project
| 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, Colorado Chapter |
| National Association of Social Workers, Connecticut 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
NREAC
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 | Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) |
| Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TED) | UAB Heersink School of Medicine |
| The Advocacy Institute | UC San Francisco |
| The AIDS Institute | UCLA |
| The American College of Preventive Medicine | UMass Chan Medical School |
| The American Orff-Schulwerk Association | UnidosUS |
| The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology | United to Beat Malaria |
| The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration | University of California System |
| The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) | University of California, San Diego |
| The Brain Donor Project | University of Colorado System |
| THE BRAIN TRUTH | University of Connecticut, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology |
| The Breakthrough Institute | University of Michigan |
| The Center for Educational Equity at Teachers College, Columbia University | University of Rochester |
| The Coalition for Health Funding | University of Virginia |
| The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station | Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! |
| The Corps Network | Urban Education Network of Iowa (UEN) |
| The Education Trust | Urban Underground |
| The END Fund | USAgainstAlzheimer's |
| The Exoneration Project | USAgeing |
| The George Washington University | USF School of Law Racial Justice Clinic |
| The Gerontological Society of America | UVA Health |
| The Juniper Center | Vector Disease Control International |
| The Kennedy Center | Vel R. Phillips School |
| The Lundquist Institute | Vermont Arts Council |
| The Mended Hearts, Inc. | Virginia CASE (VCASE) |
| The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research | Virginia Music Educators Association |
| The National Domestic Violence Hotline | Voices for National Service |
| The Porchlight Collective SAP | Voices for Progress |
| The Seventh Planning District Consortium | Voices of Hope, Inc. |
| Workforce Board (LWDA 70) | Warm Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia (wAIHA) Warriors |
| The Shriver Center at UMBC | We Are TB |
| The Shriver Center on Poverty Law | Weed Science Society of America |
| The STARR Coalition | West Virginia University |
| The Wilderness Society | Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine |
| Thresholds | Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services |
| Together for Girls | Wisconsin Music Educators Association |
| Tourette Association of America | WomenHeart |
| TPAN | Women's Refugee Commission |
| Transgender Resilience Project | Workforce Development 83 |
| Treatment Action Group | Workforce Development Board #51 |
| Treatment Communities of America | Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio |
| Trust for America's Health | Workforce Development Board SDA-83, Inc. |
| Trust for Public Land | 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