

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer,

We write to express support for bipartisan negotiations to address the significant budgetary decisions that will face our country in the coming months. Congress must take swift and deliberate steps to provide appropriate funding for government operations, while also addressing the impending debt ceiling and budgetary spending caps. Failure to act on these items would be unacceptable for our constituents and carry devastating consequences for the physical and economic security of our nation.

As you know, legislative action is needed to prevent the triggering of sequestration mechanisms authorized under the Budget Control Act of 2011. Congress has taken significant steps in recent years to reverse the devastating consequences of budget sequestration triggered in 2013, however, lawmakers must work together to continue this progress. Absent a bipartisan agreement to avoid sequestration, across the board cuts to defense and nondefense spending will disrupt the most essential functions of our government and drastically increase economic uncertainty.

Reaching a bipartisan agreement to avoid sequestration is also critical to the appropriations process in the House and Senate. Congressional appropriators rely on budgetary agreements to inform their work and ensure the timely passage of critical funding legislation through both chambers. In the absence of a budget deal, our nation's military and various government agencies face crippling uncertainty regarding funding for current and future operations.

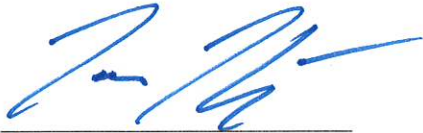
In addition to reaching an agreement that avoids a government shutdown or budget sequestration, Congress will be required to act on the statutory debt limit in the coming months. With the U.S. Treasury Department already deploying extraordinary measures to make payments on the nation's debt, legislative solutions are needed to mitigate uncertainty in financial markets and ensure on-time payments for federal beneficiaries. Our responsibility to address the debt limit cannot be

understated, with the potential of a federal default threatening to permanently damage our nation's financial security and destabilize the global economy.

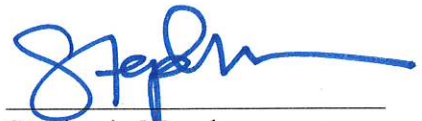
Given the sweeping implications of these budgetary considerations, every effort must be made to avoid an outcome in which political brinkmanship threatens the wellbeing of the American people. For this reason, we are urging House and Senate leadership to prioritize bipartisan budget negotiations and work with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to reach an agreement that prioritizes the financial security of our nation and the best interests of our constituents.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. We look forward to working together on the many pressing issues facing our nation.

Sincerely,



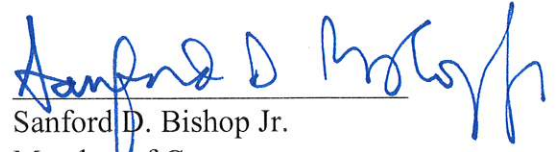
John Katko
Member of Congress



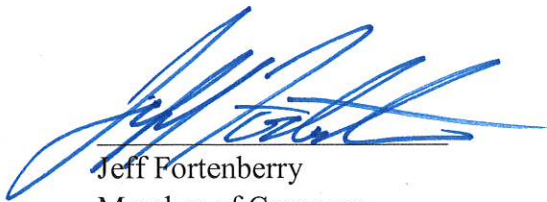
Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop Jr.
Member of Congress



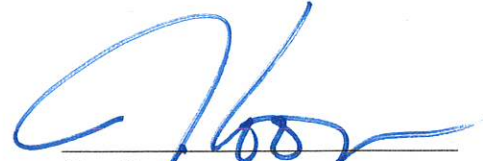
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



Ed Case
Member of Congress



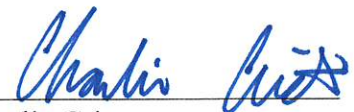
Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



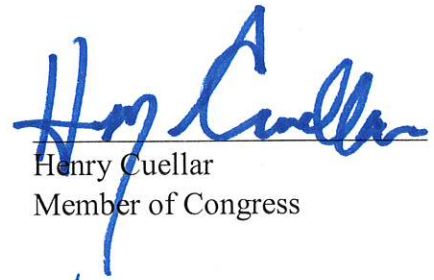
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



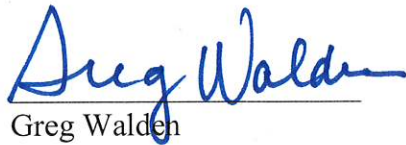
Charlie Crist
Member of Congress



Susan Brooks
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



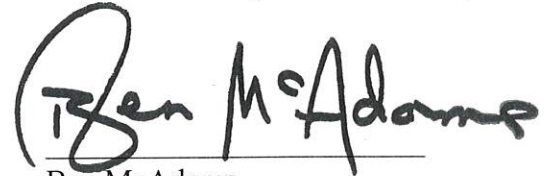
Greg Walden
Member of Congress



Kendra S. Horn
Member of Congress



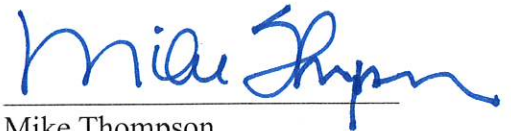
Chris Collins
Member of Congress



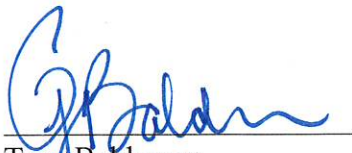
Ben McAdams
Member of Congress



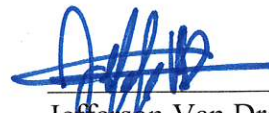
Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



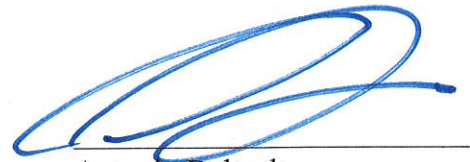
Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



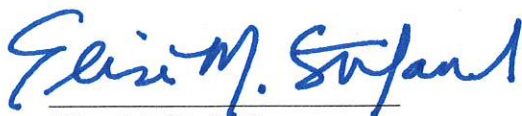
Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



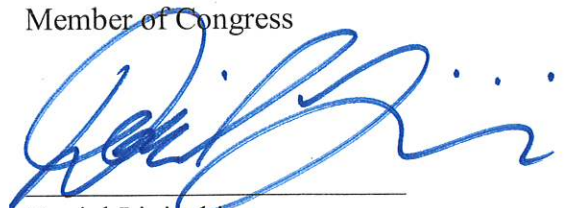
Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



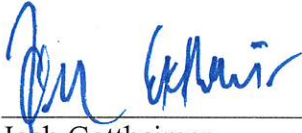
Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Will Hurd
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



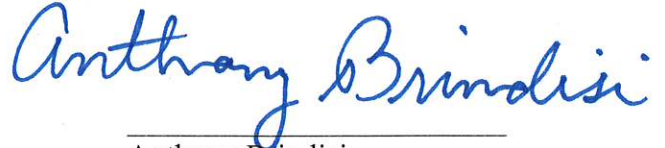
Vincente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Abigail Spanberger
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress