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 brinksmanship 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 Staber  
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