

November 16, 2017

600 MARYLAND AVE SW
SUITE 835W
WASHINGTON, DC 20024

Dear Member of Congress,

As Congress works on tax legislation, NDD United, an alliance of more than 2,000 national, state, and local organizations working to protect investments in core government functions that benefit all Americans, urges you to oppose tax legislation, such as and including H.R. 1, that further significantly increases the deficit. Fiscal concerns resulting from deficit growth have led to disproportional and damaging cuts to critical nondefense discretionary investments that affect all Americans. We are deeply concerned the tax bill will make matters worse in this regard. The legislation before you will increase the deficit by \$1.5 trillion in the first ten years, an impact that some will use to increase the pressure to make additional spending cuts to the full range of nondefense domestic and international programs. As has been demonstrated time and time again, increases in the deficit have resulted in discretionary program cuts that harm working people and the American economy.

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One need only look at current fiscal policy to see the impact on future spending that is caused by increasing deficits through tax cuts enacted without an offset. The Budget Control Act of 2011—passed because of growing concerns about deficits—placed arbitrary caps on discretionary spending for nine years that have left many nondefense priorities significantly under-funded. Spending caps for these programs in FY 2017 were \$82 billion less in constant dollars than FY 2010 levels—a 13 percent inflation adjusted decrease which has weakened basic public services as well as underinvested in diverse areas including education, job training, science, and infrastructure. These cuts have had real impacts on the ability of Americans to get the skills they need to access good paying jobs, afford safe housing, meet their critical healthcare needs, and live in safe communities.

In October, NDD United detailed the impact of these cuts in a new online report, [*Faces of Austerity: How Budget Cuts Continue to Make Us Sicker, Poorer, and Less Secure*](#). It shared stories of long waiting lists for affordable childcare and senior meal delivery services, a real reduction in workforce development training in jobs for which skilled workers are needed to fill local business openings, and the strained resources for education. It also highlighted the backlog of maintenance and infrastructure needs across the nation that, if not addressed, will lead to more preventable public health and safety crises from unsafe water systems, roads and bridges, and to further costs down the line.

Instead of adding to the deficit through a tax bill that will increase the threat of additional massive cuts to nondefense discretionary programs, Congress and the President should be working on a bipartisan deal to raise the budget caps to allow for adequate investment in these programs. NDD United urges lawmakers not to put additional strain on the federal budget by passing a tax bill which further reduces the revenue available to make needed investments in our nation's economy, our workers, our families and our communities.

Sincerely,

NDD United Steering Committee:



Emily Holubowich
Co-Chair, NDD United
Executive Director
Coalition for Health Funding



Joel Packer
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Co-Chair, NDD United
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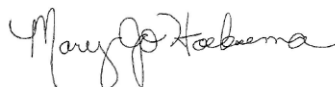


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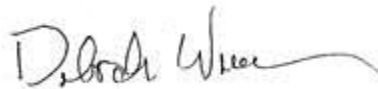
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