



CONCERNED
VETERANS
FOR AMERICA



February 7, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McConnell:

On behalf of our organizations and the millions of American individuals, families, and business owners they represent, we write to you today in strong opposition to the recently announced budget “deal” proposed to be included in this week’s must-pass spending bill.

For years, Washington has been in a cycle of budgeting by crisis—resulting in a series of last-minute and short-term spending packages that consistently increase spending, ignore the need for reform and restraint, and further burden the taxpayers of today and tomorrow. The current proposal to lift the bipartisan and previously agreed to caps set forth in the 2011 Budget Control Act by \$300 billion is a betrayal of American taxpayers and a display of the absolute unwillingness of members of Congress to adhere to any sort of responsible budgeting behavior.

In addition to irresponsible spending levels, this budget deal will include a number of other troubling provisions, including the extension or expansion of already-expired corporate welfare provisions through “tax extenders,” as well as kicking the can down the road on the debt ceiling. Our network has consistently called on federal lawmakers to stand with the American people over special interests and eliminate corporate welfare, as well as rein in out-of-control spending. This proposal is a massive failure on both accounts.

Congress must be willing to make tough choices and be forthcoming about the effects they will have on the national debt. We stand ready to work with any lawmakers that will commit to real budget and spending reform that will help get our country back on track and deliver to the American people a federal government that they can trust.

With this proposal, the Senate has opened the floodgates to massive increases in government spending and corporate welfare for powerful and well-connected special interests. Coming on the heels of historic tax reform that offered hope to hardworking Americans, the so-called bipartisan budget agreement is a travesty. Our organizations stand ready to work with lawmakers to restore fiscal discipline.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity

Dan Caldwell
Executive Director
Concerned Veterans for America

Nathan Nascimento
Executive Vice President
Freedom Partners Chamber of
Commerce

Daniel Garza
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The LIBRE Initiative

David Barnes
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Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. Freedom Partners is a non-profit, non-partisan chamber of commerce dedicated to protecting freedom and expanding opportunity for every American—no matter where they live, what they do or how much money they have.