



March 22, 2018

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of our organizations and the millions of American individuals, families, and business owners they represent, we write in strong opposition to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, a 2,000-page behemoth released to members and the public just hours before the scheduled vote on this “must-pass” legislation.

Our organizations and activists have consistently called on Congress to finally put an end to the practice of budgeting by crisis, which leads to last-minute, bloated spending bills in which lawmakers trade favors to special interests in the name of avoiding a government shutdown. Members on both sides of the aisle have made it clear that neither party is willing to practice the kind of fiscal discipline that American taxpayers deserve.

This massive \$1.3 trillion spending bill comes on the heels of February’s appalling budget deal that set the stage for a decade of massive increases in federal spending, trillion-dollar deficits and ballooning national debt. This kind of out-of-control spending and reckless disregard for the burden that will be pushed onto future generations is a sign that lawmakers in Washington—from both parties—have abdicated their roles as stewards of taxpayer dollars.

In the debate leading up to the bill, lawmakers were considering a number of additional harmful provisions including billions in bailouts for health insurers, an expanded internet sales tax, and the revival of corporate welfare “tax extenders.” While it is good that such provisions are not included, lawmakers should continue to oppose any efforts to attach these harmful and unjust provisions to any legislation now or in the future. We were also disappointed to see lawmakers failed to seize this opportunity to deliver a permanent solution for Dreamers. We remain committed to working with Congress and the administration to provide the certainty needed so that Dreamers may plan their lives and the continued application of their skills and talents in this country.

To say that this spending bill is a disappointment would be an understatement. We have seen lawmaker after lawmaker, Congress after Congress, make promises on the campaign trail to reduce federal spending, only to arrive in Washington and vote for bills that do the exact opposite. Overspending is a cancer in the Capitol, and it is rampant. Taxpayers have the cure, which is to hold accountable those lawmakers who support irresponsible spending levels that threaten the well-being and prosperity of Americans today and in the future.

As always, our organizations stand ready to work with any and all lawmakers who are willing to step up and stand up for American taxpayers, to finally address Washington’s reckless spending. We also stand ready to hold accountable those lawmakers who consistently break their promises and support policies that accelerate our country’s descent into a fiscal crisis.

We urge all members of Congress to actively seek out opportunities to restore fiscal discipline, eliminate waste and corporate welfare, and reduce the growing burden of our national debt on future generations.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity

Nathan Nascimento
Executive Vice President
Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce