



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 15, 2022

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leaders McCarthy & McConnell,

As FY 2022 draws to a close on September 30th, we urge you to:

1. **Reject** any short term “continuing resolution” that would fail to at least extend current funding to the 118th Congress to avoid empowering Democrats in a lame duck session;
2. **Reduce** overall FY 2023 appropriations to the spending topline reflected in the Republican-led FY 2019 appropriations package, ensure Republican policy riders from that package are adopted (such as the pro-life Hyde Amendment), and eliminate harmful Democrat policy riders; and
3. **Restore** federal sanity by securing additional language in appropriations bills that addresses the myriad government-created crises harming Americans including, a) spiking gas and energy prices, b) the dangerous and unsecured U.S.-Mexico border, and c) unnecessary and harmful COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

Reject a Lame Duck Omnibus and Reduce Spending to Pre-COVID-19 Levels

Inexplicably, in the face of rampant inflation and government tyranny, House Democrats recently passed a \$1.6 trillion deeming resolution that would permit a \$132 billion increase in baseline discretionary spending. Just a few weeks later, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported year-over-year inflation for the month of June reached 9.1% – a 40-year record. Worse, Democrats passed a reconciliation measure that hikes taxes and spends hundreds of billions of dollars to advance anti-American “climate” policies that will compound the inflation from which American families already are suffering.

The American People literally cannot afford another Democrat-led spending measure that would exacerbate inflation and continue to fund the very agencies waging war on our freedoms. We urge you to reject any attempt to pass a FY 2023 omnibus appropriations measure this Congress – whether in response to the September 30th spending deadline, or in the upcoming lame duck

session – and rule out any “continuing resolution” that does not extend funding to the 118th Congress.

Next Congress, Republicans must adhere to principled fiscal restraint in the wake of unified Democrat government. We strongly encourage Republican leadership to prepare FY 2023 appropriations that, at minimum, reduce overall spending to the topline for the combined GOP-led appropriations bills for FY 2019. Moreover, FY 2023 appropriations should include Republican policy riders from the 115th Congress, such as those that protect life under the Hyde Amendment, and exclude harmful Democrat riders. Finally, Republicans must fully repeal and defund the so-called “Inflation Reduction Act” as soon as possible. Reducing spending to pre-COVID levels, adopting conservative policy riders, and repealing Democrats’ disastrous tax and spend reconciliation measures would curb inflation, while restricting the Biden administration’s ability to inflict harm on the American People.

Any objection to reverting to pre-COVID spending levels as “draconian” should be met with a firm list of “pay-fors” by Republicans. Such a list should include proposals to defund unnecessary and harmful agency offices and policies that corrupt the core function of government, starting with the elimination of the countless federal employees paid to advance divisive race and gender-based ideologies throughout the bureaucracy – including at the Department of Defense. There are others – from unused COVID-19 funds, to various United Nations programs, to NGOs exploiting our borders, to foreign aid to countries like Mexico and Columbia flouting our laws, and many other harmful uses of Taxpayer dollars.

Unleash American Energy:

Record gas, diesel, and electricity prices are increasing costs not only at the pump and on utility bills, but of all goods and services. And the proliferation of subsidized, weather-dependent so-called “renewables” is making our grid unreliable while forcing dependable powerplants offline. Worse yet, we’ve sacrificed our energy independence – made clear by President Biden’s shameful trip to Saudi Arabia – and empowered Russia, Iran, China, and other adversaries. Republicans must leverage upcoming appropriations measures to secure policy changes that unleash American energy and provide relief to the American People. This includes repealing subsidies for renewables, dismantling the climate change hysteria that pervades the federal bureaucracy, promoting the rapid deployment of baseload powerplants, and statutorily overturning regulations that inhibit energy production, consumption, and infrastructure.

Secure the Southern Border:

The crisis at our southern border is spiraling out of control and harming both Americans and potential migrants. Since Joe Biden took office, the Border Patrol has encountered over three million illegal migrants at our southern border, with roughly 800,000 known “gotaways.” Deadly fentanyl, which was responsible for a staggering 71,000 “overdose” deaths in 2021 alone, is pouring over the southern border and into our communities. Ranchers, landowners, and law enforcement are being overrun, and hundreds of migrants have died because of this administration’s policies – this was recently illustrated by the tragic deaths of over 50 migrants who were trapped in a trailer near San Antonio, Texas. Republicans must refuse to advance any appropriations measure that fails to make the policy changes

necessary to secure the southern border. Such policies include requiring DHS to carry out border enforcement policies, building physical border infrastructure, requiring ICE to remove illegal migrants through full interior enforcement, and targeting the cartels and criminal organizations that maintain operational control of the southern border.

End COVID-19 Mandates:

Finally, at a time when medical providers face labor shortages and our military endures a recruitment and retention crisis, thousands of health care workers and Service Members have been, or could be, terminated from their jobs because they failed to comply with President Biden's tyrannical COVID-19 mandates. In fact, over 60,000 National Guard and Reserve Troops now face discharge for making a reasonable, personal healthcare decision against taking a COVID-19 shot. And due to the federal employee mandate, federal workers face termination this fall. These mandates should be overturned in any upcoming funding measures.

Republicans must use every opportunity at our disposal – especially through the constitutional power of the purse – to fight for the freedoms of the American People. At a minimum, we should not fund government policies so brazenly and openly at odds with the exercise of those freedoms to the undeniable detriment of the American People.

Sincerely,

The House Freedom Caucus