November 1, 2022

Dear Senator/Representative:

The enactment of the Continuing Resolution through December 16 was a necessary stopgap measure to allow Congress to come to agreement on full-year omnibus appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2023. We thank you for your leadership in averting a funding crisis and urge you to work swiftly to approve a final agreement that provides increases in domestic and international program funding (non-defense discretionary spending, or NDD), no less than those proposed by the House of Representatives for Fiscal Year 2023 and that is unencumbered by poison pill riders. At minimum, the House-proposed NDD levels are required to respond to the level of need and the precarious nature of today’s economy. Creating a separate veterans’ medical services funding category, as proposed in the Biden Administration’s FY 2023 budget, would ensure adequate funding for veterans’ medical care while minimizing competition with other vital NDD programs.

Your constituents are being buffeted by the ongoing consequences of the pandemic, natural disasters, and other international contributors to rising prices and shortages of goods. These affect their health, their access to work and affordable child care, their ability to pay for basic needs, and their children’s education. In 2021, more than 40 percent of people with household income less than $50,000 were paying half or more of their income on rent. Similar proportions now report finding it somewhat or very difficult to pay for their regular household expenses. Food and home energy costs are up and the proportion of people who say their households have gone without food in the previous week has risen more than 40 percent since August, 2021 (from 8.2% to 11.5 percent). Efforts by the Federal Reserve to control inflation are expected to result in more people without jobs. All of this is hitting people with low incomes the hardest: rural, urban, women, children, Black, brown, and Indigenous people, the aging and people with disabilities on fixed incomes. In addition to the moral wrong of ignoring these hardships, if their losses grow, it may trigger or worsen a recession, and that would needlessly threaten our nation’s economic security.

In the face of this, the proposed increases in funding for domestic and international programs make modest but important progress after years of decline, taking inflation into account. These NDD programs lost 4 percent of their value from FY 2010 to FY 2022, counting inflation and population growth. However, if the fast-growing spending on VA medical care is separated out, the rest of NDD programs declined by 10 percent. The Coalition on Human Needs has tracked programs particularly targeted to assist people with low incomes from FY 2010 through FY 2022. Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) saw cuts over this period; nearly one-third (31 percent) lost 20 percent or more, taking inflation into account.

Now and into 2023, increased inflation makes it still more urgent that appropriations for domestic and other non-defense programs keep pace with growing costs and growing need. Service providers in the public or private sectors must be able to keep salaries and benefits competitive to maintain an adequate workforce; rising costs for rent and supplies also strain their budgets.

The signers of this letter represent 411 human service providers, faith groups, policy experts, labor, civil rights, disability, and other anti-poverty advocates who see the precarious position of our people nationwide. Reducing funding for domestic and international programs below the House-proposed levels will jeopardize our ability to respond to urgent human needs and will imperil our capacity to help
Americans recover from the multiple disasters they have faced or may face in the year ahead. We urge you to see protecting these funding levels as a matter of national security.

Sincerely,

20/20 Vision
ADAP Advocacy Association
Addiction Connections Resource
Advocates for Responsible Care
African American Health Alliance
African Family Holistic Health Organization
AIDS Alabama
AIDS United
Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Alameda County Community Food Bank
Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Alliance to End Hunger
Alpha-1 Foundation
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee
American Society of Nephrology
Amigos Del Valle, Inc.
Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc.
Arizona Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Arizona Food Bank Network
Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Arkansas Human Development Corporation
Ashland County Aging Unit Inc.
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Atlanta Pride Committee
Autism Society of America
Benedictine Sisters of Florida
Bergen County Green Party
Berks Encore
Blackbelt & Central Alabama Housing
Blue Ridge Community Action Inc
Bread Line, Inc.
Brighter Beginnings
Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition
California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
California Human Development
Caring Across Generations
Casa Baltimore Limay
Center for American Progress
Center for Employment Training (CET)
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
Central Valley Opportunity Center
Child Care Resources, Inc
Child Care Services Association
Child Welfare League of America
Children's HealthWatch
Children's Home Society of America
Church of St. Francis Xavier
Church World Service
Citizen Action of NY
City Harvest
Cleveland Chapter of Irish Northern Aid
Coalition on Human Needs
COASAP
Colorado Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF)
Community Access National Network (CANN)
Community Action Partnership - Sonoma
Community Action Partnership of North Central Missouri
Community Action Pioneer Valley
Community Development Authority of Marshfield
Community Food Advocates
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Cornucopia Community Advocates
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Court Watch Montgomery
D. C. Hunger Solutions
DC Metro Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Delaware Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Disability Rights Nebraska
Doctors for Change
Drug Policy Alliance
Georgia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Georgia Equality
Good Shepherd Food Bank
Great Lakes ADA of Michigan
Greater Lansing Peace Education Center
Greater Orlando National Organization for Women
Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Green Mountain Self-Advocates
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Guam Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Hawaii Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Health and Welfare Council of Long Island
Health Care Voices
Healthcare Alternative Systems
Healthy Teen Network
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hispanic Federation
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
HIV Medicine Association
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Homer Senior Citizens, Inc.
Horizons, A Family Service Alliance
Housing Opportunities of Fort Worth, Inc.
Houston Food Bank
Humboldt UU Fellowship
Hunger Free Vermont
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Hunger Task Force
Hunger-Free Pennsylvania
Idaho Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA)
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Illinois Hunger Coalition
Impact Fund
Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking
Indiana County Community Action Program, Inc.
Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Iowa Citizen Action Network
Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Islamic Relief USA
Island Harvest Food Bank
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis
Jewish Family Service of Colorado
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Jewish Women International
Just Harvest
Justice in Aging
Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Kids Above All
La Cooperativa Campesina de California
Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer (L.U.N.A.)
LeadingAge
League of Conservation Voters
Least Of These, Inc.
LifeStream Services, Inc.
Livingston County Senior Nutrition / Western Oakland Meals on Wheels
Local Office on Aging, Inc.
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Long Island Cares, Inc.-The Harry Chapin Food Bank
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Louisiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Main Street Alliance
Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Maine Equal Justice
Maryland Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence Inc (MNADV)
Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts Peace Action
Matthew 25 AIDS Services, Inc.
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Maurice & Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Meals on Wheels America
Meals on Wheels Association of Georgia
Meals on Wheels Association of Oklahoma
Meals on Wheels California
Meals on Wheels Diablo Region
Meals on Wheels North Central Texas
Meals on Wheels of Coweta, Inc.
Meals on Wheels of Eastern Onondaga County, Inc
Meals on Wheels Older Adult Alternatives of Fairfield County Inc
Meals on Wheels Orange County
Medical Library Association
Metro New York Health Care for All
Metro West Housing Solutions
Metropolitan Community Churches
Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Middletown Senior Center
Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Mississippi Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Mississippi Delta Council for Farmworkers Opportunities, Inc.
Missouri Budget Project
Missouri Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Modern Maturity Center
Montana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Montana Food Bank Network
Montgomery County Food Council
Montpelier Senior Activity Center
Morgan County Democrats
Motivation, Education & Training, Inc.
Mount Vernon United Tenants
Mt. Graham Safe House
NASTAD
National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA)
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of RSVP Directors
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Community Action Partnership
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low income clients)
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Employment Law Project
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Head Start Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Homelessness Law Center
National Housing Resource Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Job Corps Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National NeighborWorks Association
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women
National Organization for Women Southern District
National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Senior Corps Association
National Skills Coalition
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)
National WIC Association
National Women's Law Center
Natural Resources Defense Council
Navajo United Methodist Center/New Beginnings
NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New England Farm Workers’ Council
New Hampshire Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
New Hampshire School Administrators Association
New Jersey Association on Correction
New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New Jersey Citizen Action
New Mexico Appleseed
New Mexico Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
New York State Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
NH Hunger Solutions
NJ Public Health Association
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Northwest Harvest
Occupy Bergen County
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
OIC of Washington
Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Operation Food Search
Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Human Development Corporation
ORO Development Corp.
Our Father's Family Keeper Ministries
Papa Ola Lokahi
Pasco Kids First
PathStone Corporation
Pax Christi Illinois
Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane
Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
PlusInc
PPEP, Inc.
Preble Street
Prevent Blindness
Project Bread
Proposition One Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Future
Prosperity Now
Prosperity Works
Proteus, Inc.
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Public Citizen
Public Justice Center
Puerto Rico Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Rachel Carson Council
Residents United Network Los Angeles
RESULTS
Rhode Island Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
River Valley AAA
Rocky Mountain SER
RootsAction.org
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Safe States Alliance
Safer Foundation
San Diego for Every Child
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
School Social Work Association of America
School-Based Health Alliance
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley
Senior Citizens Inc.
SER Corporation
SER National
SERCAP, INC.
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA
SLR (Statewide Labor Roundtable)
Snake River Alliance
Society of General Internal Medicine
South Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
South Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Spectrum Health Care
St. Francis Center
Sterling Area Senior Citizens, Inc.
TASH
Telamon Corporation
Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Tennessee Opportunity Programs, Inc.
Texas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of Ohio
The Arc of the United States
The Center
The Center for Youth and Family Solutions
The Education Trust
The Food Trust
The Fund for Women and Girls
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
The Open Door Shelter, inc.
Toppenish Community Chest
Treatment Communities of America
Triangle Empowerment Center
TrustedRiders Inc
Turning Point Inc.
UMOS
UnidosNow
UnidosUS
United Church of Christ Justice and Local Church Ministries
United Way of Kern County
United Way of Northern NJ
Urban Justice Center
USAging
Utah Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Utahns Against Hunger
VA Hunger Solutions
Vermont Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Virgin Islands Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Vision For Equality, Inc
Voices of Hope, Inc.
Volunteers of America, Utah
Warren County Home Delivery Meals, Inc
Warren County Senior Center
Washington Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Washington Food Coalition
Watertown for Peace, Justice, and the Environment
West Chester Food Cupboard
West Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
White Center Parent Ambassadors
WIC Association of NYS, Inc.
Wildfire: Igniting Community Action to End Poverty in Arizona
Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network
Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Wisconsin Community Action Program Association, Inc.
Wyoming Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
ZERO TO THREE