



February 22, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

We write as a bipartisan group of Representatives from different corners of the country and with different perspectives. The pandemic levied enormous harm to our nation's public health and economy. In response, we have supported trillions in emergency spending and tax relief to provide the health and economic resources needed to assist our constituents and support our recovery.

As we work towards a full economic recovery, there are still several massive challenges to address. Inflation is at a level not seen in decades and the federal debt is nearly the size of the economy and on pace to grow to greater than 106% of GDP by the end of the decade.<sup>1</sup> In the decades to follow, our debt trajectory will continue to accelerate with no end in sight.

For these reasons, as we approach the March 11 deadline to fund the government, it is crucial to keep our fiscal outlook in mind. Our national debt should be a top priority for both parties and addressed on a bipartisan basis.

In just the last five years, legislative and executive actions have added \$13 trillion<sup>2</sup> to the projected debt in 2031, not just in response to COVID-19, but because of Congress' perennially broken budget process and fiscal policies. It has been over a decade since Congress enacted any legislation that significantly addressed these longstanding structural problems or improved the nation's fiscal outlook.

While it is important to avoid a shutdown and ensure the government is responsibly funded, we recommend that any appropriations package include provisions that would also make headway on addressing our large and growing national debt.

We ask that you include one or both of the following:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2021-07/57218-Outlook.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget based off CBO data

- Provisions to create a debt commission. The Sustainable Budget Act offers a workable model. Alternatively, other bipartisan commissions to address our fiscal challenges and near-term trust fund insolvency would create forums for bipartisan solutions.
- Provisions to help ensure that we complete responsible budgets that will reduce our long-term debt-to-GDP and the threat of default from the debt ceiling, while providing opportunities for members to bring forward bipartisan debt reduction proposals. The Responsible Budgeting Act is one example of legislation that would help accomplish these goals.

It's our job to responsibly fund the government and avoid costly "continuing resolutions" and shutdowns. At the same time, we owe it to our children to acknowledge our country's unsustainable fiscal trajectory and work together, across the aisle, to address it over time. Including the ideas above would be a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
Member of Congress



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Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



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Ron Estes  
Member of Congress



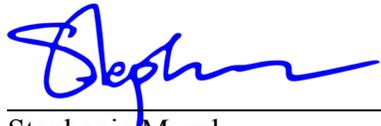
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Carolyn Bourdeaux  
Member of Congress



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Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



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Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress



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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



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Peter Meijer M.C.  
Member of Congress



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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



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Ronny L. Jackson, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress



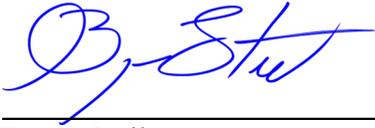
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Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
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Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



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Blake D. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
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Tom Rice  
Member of Congress