

September 29, 2022

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of millions of taxpayers, I write to you to express the Taxpayers Protection Alliance's (TPA) firm opposition to the *Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023*. While we recognize the importance of avoiding government shutdown, we have significant concerns with this continuing resolution (CR) and the larger CR process.

At its core, a CR's purpose is to keep the doors open and the lights on until Congress can pass a full budget for the next fiscal year (FY). However, this CR is not a direct continuation of the FY 2022 budget. It includes more than \$35 billion in additional spending on priorities that should properly be addressed when Congress reviews the full FY23 budget. This includes \$12.3 billion in assistance to Ukraine and \$1 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). We strongly recommend removing all provisions that are not direct continuations of FY22 funding.

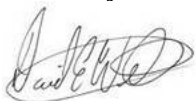
Furthermore, this CR only funds the government until December 16, 2022. If Congress' intent is to protect taxpayer interests and effectively appropriate public funds, this measure fails on both points. Specifically, it leaves the legislature with three negative options: (a) to pass another CR by that deadline, (b) to pass a full budget during a lame duck period, or (c) to allow funding to lapse until the 118th Congress is sworn in, leaving Americans without a funded government for nearly a full month.

We strongly recommend extending this CR into the 118th Congress and allowing the next session to assess and address the budget, as the 117th Congress has proved itself incapable of being responsible stewards of the purse. To show that, one need not look further than the FY22 budget process, where, after multiple CRs, Congress finally passed a budget omnibus in March 2022. This was six months after FY22 began on October 1, 2021. Then, on June 8, 2022, Congress opted for a "deeming resolution" to set topline funding levels for FY23, attached to an unrelated rule and in neglect of the April 15 statutory deadline to pass a concurrent budget resolution.

A failure to appropriate is a failure to govern and an outright abdication of the most basic of congressional responsibilities laid out in Article I, Section 7. The usage of CRs and the failure to restore discretionary spending caps that lapsed in the FY21 budget highlights the 117th Congress' willingness to bend and break its own rules, a practice which in no way can be construed to benefit the American people.

TPA stands firmly against the FY23 CR's inclusion of nongermane provisions, its reckless lame-duck deadline, and the practice of CRs entirely. If Congress hopes to regain the faith of taxpayers, it must first ensure it can fulfill its fundamental responsibilities.

Sincerely,



David Williams
President