

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 10, 2023

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

Dear Speaker McCarthy:

Congratulations on your selection as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 118th Congress. We look forward to working with you in a bipartisan manner these next two years on behalf of the American people.

We write to express our significant concern regarding reports that as part of last week's Speakership negotiations, you agreed to support limiting national defense spending to Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 levels, effectively resulting in a \$75 billion dollar cut to our national security in a future government funding bill.

A \$75 billion dollar cut to the defense budget would imperil our national security at a time in which the United States confronts an unprecedented array of global challenges; including an increasingly powerful and authoritarian China determined to supplant the U.S. as the dominant global political, economic, and military power, an aggressive Russia that threatens U.S. interests and which continues its unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine, and rogue states North Korea and Iran that continue to develop nuclear weapons capabilities.

Recognizing the seriousness of current global threats, Congress has worked in a bipartisan manner to strengthen our defense budget and to assert Congress' role in setting national security policy. This past year, for example, Democrats and Republicans worked together to substantially increase defense authorization and funding levels beyond the Biden Administration's FY2023 budget request by approximately \$45 billion dollars. This additional funding was crucial for, among other things, the procurement of additional naval ships at a time in which China has developed the world's largest navy, strengthening the defense industrial base and defense infrastructure, adjusting to ongoing inflationary pressures, and to support essential research and development of new technologies and capabilities necessary for the U.S. to keep pace against potential adversaries.

We are deeply concerned that such a drastic cut in defense spending would not only undo this bipartisan consensus in support of our national defense, but would also endanger our long-term national security by injecting substantial uncertainty into the long-term defense budgetary planning necessary to ensure timely investments in personnel, procurement, readiness, and research and development. At a time in which our adversaries are developing ever more sophisticated and lethal military capabilities, it is crucial that Congress continue to provide necessary and steady funding to our armed forces.


One of Congress' most important functions is to provide for the common defense. A \$75 billion cut to our national security would represent an abrogation of that responsibility.

That is why we respectfully request that you reconsider any support to such a defense spending cut, reportedly agreed-to absent necessary input from the congressional armed services and defense appropriations committees. We urge you to continue Congress' bipartisan work to strengthen our national security.

Respectfully,



Jared F. Golden  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop Jr.  
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



Ed Case  
Member of Congress



Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel  
Member of Congress



Donald G. Davis  
Member of Congress