

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 18, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Appropriations Committee
H307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Chairman
Rules Committee
H312, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Chairwoman Lowey, and Chairman McGovern:

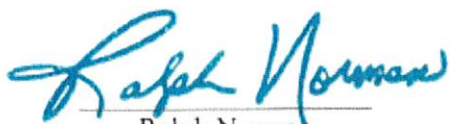
We are writing to you to express our deep concerns about the decision to remove spending reduction accounts from the appropriations process. It was dismaying to learn that these accounts were nowhere to be found in the appropriations bills, packaged together as minibuses. These accounts served the important purpose of allowing Members of Congress to propose amendments that reduce the federal government's level of spending in order to lessen our national debt and deficit. We urge you to remedy this in the remaining appropriations bills, or in a Conference Committee with our Senate counterparts.

It is our Constitutional duty to appropriate federal funds, and we believe it is necessary to do so in a fiscally responsible manner. Through the amendment process, Members of Congress, many of whom do not sit on the Appropriations Committee, should be given the opportunity to direct allocated funds towards deficit reduction, instead of continuing to increase funding for federal programs. Currently, our debt surpasses \$22 trillion and our annual deficit is approaching \$1 trillion, with the Congressional Budget Office projecting that over the next 10 years, net interest costs on our debt will total nearly \$7 trillion. In light of these staggering amounts, we should be taking any steps possible to reduce both our debt and deficit. Instead, you have chosen to deny Members the opportunity to voice their concerns throughout this process.

A conversation about the federal government's excessive spending habits needs to be had, and at a minimum the levels of discretionary spending should certainly be debated. Without the presence of spending reductions accounts, there is no meaningful way for Members to offer amendments that bring our spending levels closer to the amount that this body collects from taxpayers.

It is a sad day for this legislative body. To intentionally eliminate spending reduction accounts is just an illustration to the American people of your unwillingness to seriously address our nation's increasingly dire fiscal outlook. This restriction on Members' abilities to participate in the appropriations process is unnecessary and irresponsible. While the goal should be a balanced budget, today we are simply asking for the opportunity to debate, vote, and make meaningful changes to the appropriations legislation. We hope that you will hear our concerns and that spending reduction accounts will be present in the remaining pieces of appropriation legislation.

Sincerely,



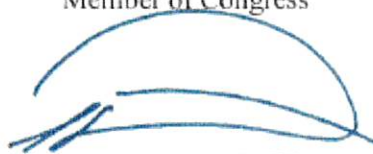
Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



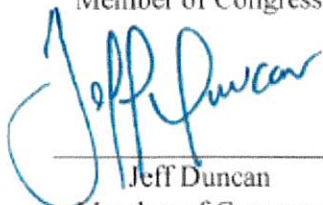
Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



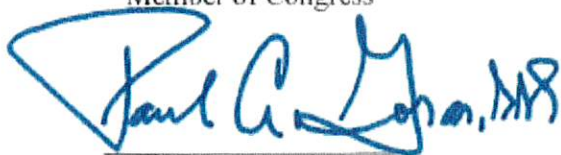
William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



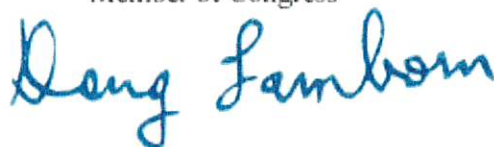
Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Paul Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



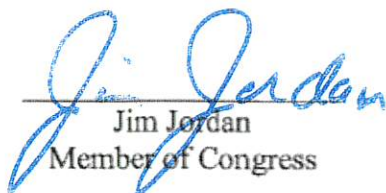
Jody Hice
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress