

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-220, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

Over the past two months, Congress has passed and President Trump has signed into law significant legislation aimed at combating the health impacts of COVID-19 and the economic consequences of the government's response. In total, this legislative response has resulted in more than \$2.5 trillion in new spending.

While there is plenty to debate about the merits of each dollar that has been spent responding to COVID-19 at this point, our organizations are committed to a responsible federal government and are united in our dismay at the ever-escalating debt burden of our country. Outside of spending related to COVID-19, our deficit for this year will surpass \$1 trillion and will remain that high or higher for the foreseeable future. It is important to the future of our nation that Congress works to slow our spending and reduce our debt.

Earlier this week, Republican Study Committee Chairman Mike Johnson and Representative Jim Banks, chairman of the RSC Budget and Spending Task Force, sent a letter to congressional leaders calling for offsets to future COVID-19-related spending and for a long-term spending control mechanism. We applaud and add our support to their efforts.

The RSC has long been a voice of fiscal responsibility in Congress. In 2011, at the height of our nation's focus on out-of-control spending, the RSC developed a three-part plan for lowering spending levels and reducing our debt. Known as "Cut, Cap, and Balance," their plan heavily influenced congressional leaders and played a large role in pushing Congress to adopt the Budget Control Act. While certainly not at the level of spending control necessary at that time, it had a positive impact on our overall spending for several years.

As our nation's long term fiscal position erodes precipitously, America urgently needs Congress to once again focus on our nation's finances. Each of our groups are ready with solutions to assist you with these difficult decisions.

We thank Chairman Johnson, Representative Banks, and the RSC for once again taking a lead on spending restraint. It is encouraging that our elected officials are strengthening their resolve to secure our nation's future.

Sincerely,

Jessica Anderson  
Executive Director  
Heritage Action for America

Thomas Schatz  
President  
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Jason Pye  
Vice President of Legislative Affairs  
FreedomWorks

Tim Andrews  
Executive Director  
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Jonathan M. Bydlak  
Director, Fiscal & Budget Policy Project  
R Street Institute

Grover Norquist  
President  
Americans for Tax Reform

James Taylor  
President  
The Heartland Institute

Eunie Smith  
President  
Eagle Forum

Kevin Roberts, PhD  
Executive Director  
Texas Public Policy Forum

Carrie Lukas  
President  
Independent Women's Forum

Heather R. Higgins  
Chief Executive Officer  
Independent Women's Voice

Adam Andrzejewski  
CEO/Founder  
American Transparency

David Bozell  
President  
For America

Matt Schlapp  
Chairman  
American Conservative Union

Brandon Arnold  
Executive Vice President  
National Taxpayer Union

Lisa B. Nelson  
CEO  
ALEC Action

Steve Ellis  
President  
Taxpayers for Common Sense

Bob Carlstom  
President  
AMAC Action