

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner,

We write today to strongly urge immediate action on proposals to avert the \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts set to take effect in just over two weeks time due to the pending sequestration. Economists and budget experts have advised Congress to act to avoid this series of automatic cuts that will slow economic growth, cause greater uncertainty for middle class families, and cost the nation thousands of jobs.

Indiscriminate cuts of this magnitude will severely destabilize our nation's economic recovery, and, ultimately, shift additional costs and burdens to those who can least afford it – seniors, students, small businesses, and middle class families. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to bring to the House floor the thoughtful, balanced proposals that have been offered to replace the so-called sequester so that we may debate them, and vote on them.

Just yesterday, the House Committee on the Budget held its first hearing of the 113th Congress. The Director of the Congressional Budget Office, Douglas Elmendorf, testified that if sequestration goes forward it will mean the loss of 750,000 jobs in 2013. These job losses will come at a time when we can least afford another economic downturn. Indiscriminate cuts to vital resources for K-12 and special education, infrastructure development, state and local law enforcement, our defense industry, and health and research initiatives will stall our economy, undermine key priorities we share as a nation, and put more Americans out of work. There are balanced proposals on the table that make more targeted, sensible cuts while also eliminating unneeded and unfair subsidies to the wealthiest among us, big oil companies, and corporate special interests.

On behalf of the families all across this country who are struggling to make ends meet, I respectfully request that you keep Congress in session next week, rather than adjourning for recess as scheduled, so that we can come together to put forward a balanced replacement to across-the-board spending cuts that threaten our fragile economic recovery.

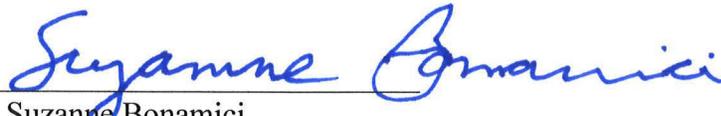
Sincerely,


David N. Cicilline

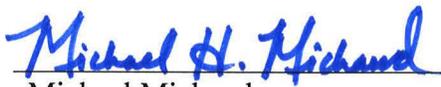

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