

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2017

Hon. Paul Ryan
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan,

As Members of the Tuesday Group Caucus, we write to express our concerns with the direction of the fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget process. Recent reports regarding the details of the budget and reconciliation instructions are extremely problematic and we fear that if the House insists on pursuing this course, it could imperil tax reform and once again lead to instability in the appropriations process.

First, we are concerned with proceeding on the FY 2018 budget in the House prior to the completion of the health care debate. Due to the fiscal impacts of many of the policies contained in both the House and Senate versions of health care reform, it is important that we have a clear understanding of the ultimate treatment of the federal health programs prior to making decisions on any potential additional changes to those programs and the people they serve.

Additionally, we believe that the FY 2018 reconciliation should be focused on the enactment of pro-growth, pro-jobs tax reform. While fiscal responsibility and long-term budget stability is essential, requiring hundreds of billions – as much as \$200 billion by some accounts -- in budget savings from mandatory spending programs in the reconciliation package is not practical and will make enacting tax reform even more difficult than it already will be.

Finally, we believe that it is incumbent on the White House and Congressional leaders, both Republicans and Democrats, to reach an agreement that sets spending levels for, at least, FY 2018. This agreement could be immediately negotiated and paired with the vote to increase the debt limit that Congress faces late this summer or early fall. In fact, absent such a bipartisan, bicameral agreement, we are reticent to support any budget resolution on the House floor.

We look forward to continuing to work with your leadership team to ensure that Congress meets its governance obligations to the American people.

Sincerely,





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Signers:

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