July 18, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

Speaker McCarthy,

I would like to express my utmost dissatisfaction with the lack of leadership dealing with the fiscal state of our nation. Congress has abandoned its most important duty to the American people – to oversee spending.

In Federalist Paper No. 58, James Madison described the power of the purse as “the most complete and effectual weapon with which any constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people”. As you know, we can wipe our *** (you know what) with all letters and grandiose statements we are sending to the executive branch. Only money matters.

It has been almost a year since we had these discussions as a conference, and no real progress has been made. Therefore, I am planning to oppose all Republican rules going forward until Congress starts exercising its constitutional duties. I will list three main reasons:

1) **Unauthorized spending is not addressed** – roughly 70% of all spending is not authorized by Congress - about two thirds of all spending is automatic, and another one third of all discretionary spending is also not authorized by Congress. We had a discussion last year on a proposed rule to stop waiving at least some authorizations, which you asked to withdraw, promising to deal with this issue at a committee level. I suggested we create authorization subcommittees at each committee, but was told that regular subcommittees would be handling it – and nothing has happened. Recently, as part of our “debt ceiling” debacle, you promised to create a task force to deal with this issue – nothing meaningful has happened. We will be passing appropriation bills on unauthorized spending once again, waiving our rules.

2) **Perpetual automatic spending is not addressed** – we have a huge problem with our mandatory spending, which can only be addressed on a bipartisan basis. Before your “debt ceiling” deal, I sent you and other stakeholders a letter with five items to eliminate at least some fraud and abuse in the system – policies supported by both President Trump and Obama – up to $1.8T in savings, which you did not fight for. You did not even fight to have a bipartisan commission to deal with this issue and punt it till 2025.

3) **Oversight is ineffective** – our oversight also leaves much to be desired – ad hoc, fragmented, not coordinated and poorly staffed – not holding the out-of-control executive branch accountable. This is not to mention the numerous hypocrisies with our rules.

Our country has very material problems and is in dire need of some governing, not messaging and book writing. If not us – there is no one else left to represent the people – not personal ambitions, government control and big money.

Regards,

Victoria Spartz (IN-05)
cc: Steve Scalise, Tom Emmer