

**A VOTE FOR BOEHNER'S CONTINUING
RESOLUTION IS A VOTE FOR SEQUESTRATION**
Washington, D.C
September 15, 2013

Dear Democratic Colleague:

Throughout the course of this year, virtually all Democrats have focused on the enormous economic pain that across the board cuts to non-defense discretionary spending have inflicted on children, the elderly, working families, and the most vulnerable people in this country. Many of us have fought to replace these harmful sequestration cuts by closing tax loopholes that benefit the most profitable corporations and wealthiest people in this country, but not one Republican has joined us in this effort.

Next week, the House will likely be voting on a continuing resolution (CR) that would lock in place harsh sequestration spending cuts for domestic programs while providing a \$20 billion boost to defense spending (compared to FY '14 sequestration levels) for the next three months. It has been recently reported that if the House is able to pass these draconian spending cuts, the Senate is likely to go along. That would be a tragic mistake.

If the Senate approves the Boehner CR it will be the first time that our caucus will have affirmatively voted for sequestration levels of spending and would set a terrible precedent for future negotiations. As the Center for American Progress has pointed out, of the nine CR's enacted since January of 2011, not once has the final appropriated level been above the short-term funding level.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, sequestration will lead to the loss of 900,000 jobs and cause a 0.7 percent drop in GDP next year. That would be simply

unacceptable.

Today, millions of Americans are already suffering as a result of sequestration. Here are just a few examples:

- More than 57,000 children are losing access to Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
- Tens of thousands of hungry senior citizens have been denied access to the Meals on Wheels program.
- 140,000 low-income families – primarily seniors with disabilities and families with children – are losing rental assistance because of cuts to elderly housing, disabled housing, and a number of other affordable housing programs.
- 70,000 college students are losing federal work study grants.
- Doctors and cancer clinics are being forced to deny chemotherapy treatments to thousands of cancer patients because of a 2 percent cut to Medicare providers.
- The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is being cut by \$180 million, meaning about 400,000 households will no longer receive the help they need to pay their heating bills.

Keeping sequestration going for the next three months will cause even more suffering to the most vulnerable Americans in this country.

In fact, if the Boehner CR is approved, programs that millions of Americans rely on will be cut even further. For

example, after adjusting for inflation:

- Head Start will be on track to receive a \$1 billion cut compared to Fiscal Year 2002, a 12 percent cut.
- The Child Care Development Block Grant will be on track to receive a \$565 million cut compared to FY 2002, a 20 percent cut.
- Title I education spending will be on track to receive a cut of more than \$2.3 billion compared to FY 2010, a 14 percent cut.
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act will be cut by more than \$1.8 billion compared to FY 2010, a 13 percent cut.
- LIHEAP will be cut by more than \$1.8 billion compared to Fiscal Year 2010, a 35 percent cut.
- The HOME Investment Partnership, providing affordable housing to working families with children, will be cut by more than \$1.4 billion compared to FY 2002, a 60 percent cut.

If the Boehner CR is signed into law, more Americans will lose their jobs; more children will be thrown off of Head Start; more Americans will be unable to afford to send their kids to child care; more teachers will be thrown out on the street; more senior citizens will go hungry; and more working families will be unable to heat their homes this winter. In the richest country on the face of the earth that would be morally repugnant and bad economic policy.

The Budget Control Act (BCA) calls for non-defense

discretionary spending levels for FY 2014 to be \$506 billion, \$57 billion more than the Boehner CR. The BCA spending levels already represent a significant cut to domestic programs after adjusting for inflation. At a time when 21.5 million Americans are unemployed or under-employed, and the number of Americans living in poverty is near an all-time high, the American people cannot take even more austerity. Let's reject the Boehner CR and demand that spending levels not be cut below the Budget Control Act for FY 2014.

Sincerely,

Bernard

United States

Sanders

Senator