

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 15, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write to thank you for your commitment to preventing a government shutdown, and to urge you to pass a full-year funding bill for FY2022.

The American people are counting on us to include the important investments planned for fiscal year 2022 and failing to pass a full-year funding bill would result in a de facto cut for many essential services and programs. Passing another CR would only delay the urgent work of funding the U.S. government for the entirety of FY2022.

The House and Senate have proposed appropriations bills which include many increased investments, including for fire fighters, police officers, veterans, and COVID first responders. If we do a full-year CR, we will not see the important investments in public safety and law enforcement.

We'd see \$65 million in increased funding lost for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). In the 27 years since its founding, COPS has made it possible for state and local police forces to hire more than 135,000 officers, while simultaneously providing indispensable resources, training, and tech support. Without the anticipated budget increase, this critical program won't be able to as effectively support police officers on the ground in their work building community connections and fighting crime.

Failure to pass a full-year funding bill would take away \$200 million set aside for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, which supports essential public safety programs on the state and local level. Just a few of the services that would take a hit include law enforcement support, victim mental health programming, crime prevention, and drug enforcement and treatment, among many others.

We'd lose the opportunity to allocate an additional \$10 million for both Assistance to Firefighters Grants and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants if Congress only passes a full-year CR. These programs help pay for necessary training and equipment for first responders and make sure communities can hire and train enough firefighters to protect their residents, respectively. Without a full-year funding bill, states and municipalities wouldn't have

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access to federal money they're counting on to support firefighters and other emergency responders.

Our nation's veterans would be unable to access a \$16.99 billion increase for the Veterans Benefits Administration, or the additional \$7.69 billion planned for the Veterans Health Administration. As Gulf War and post-9/11 veterans exposed to toxic substances are now finally able to receive disability benefits, this additional funding is crucial to providing these overdue benefits to our servicemembers.

These are just a few of the programs that will lose critical planned funding if Congress cuts corners and fails to pass a full-year funding bill. The American people are counting on us to fulfill one of our most basic duties and pass a full-year funding bill, and we urge you to keep that commitment.

Sincerely,



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halloran
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Cynthia Axne
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



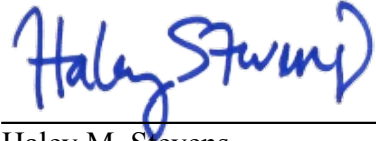
Tom Malinowski
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