

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Capitol H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

September 7, 2017

Speaker Ryan:

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin has asked Congress to increase the debt limit once again by the end of September. Given the limited number of legislative days, and the extensive number of important items that must be addressed as the House reconvenes from our District Work Period, I believe that it is important for Members to be actively communicating with Leadership about how to ensure the debt limit can be raised.

While some have advocated for a "clean" debt limit increase, this would simply increase the borrowing authority of the government while irresponsibly ignoring the urgency of reforms. Worse yet is attaching the debt limit to legislation that continues the status quo or even worsens the trajectory on spending, such as the deal announced yesterday by the President and Congressional Leadership. The RSC Steering Committee opposes this proposal.

Another problem is that such a debt limit increase seems to lack the votes to pass with Republican votes. The most recent "clean" debt limit vote on February 11, 2014, earned the support of only 28 House Republicans, while the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 only received 79 Republican votes.

After consulting with the membership of the Republican Study Committee, I have compiled a list of proposals to give the Conference a menu of options that will help the debt limit to be raised. While not an exhaustive list, the inclusion of these policies will help you secure additional Republican votes for the debt limit increase.

Sincerely,



Mark Walker

Enclosure

## **Options to Help the Debt Limit to Be Increased**

### **Meaningful Measures to Address the Growing Debt Burden**

- Enforceable caps on mandatory spending or total outlays to achieve the House Republican balanced budget
- A Balanced Budget Amendment
- Repeal Obamacare
- Medicaid reforms, such as work requirements for able-bodied adults and moving to a per-capita cap system with a state option for a block grant
- Disability Insurance reforms, such as eliminating double dipping in the Unemployment Insurance program
- Welfare reforms, such as strengthening work requirements for SNAP
- Crack down on improper payments, such as by enacting the Refundable Child Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Reform Act
- Rescind unobligated balances from discretionary spending bills
- Expedited process to sell federal assets
- End the Dodd-Frank bailout authority
- Reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program

### **Reforms to Begin Draining the Swamp and Restore Constitutionalism**

- Reform the debt limit by enacting the Default Prevention Act and by prohibiting suspensions of the debt limit
- Regain Congressional control over the regulatory administrative state, such as through a regulatory budget or by enacting the REINS Act
- Require the CBO to be transparent
- Reclaim the Article I power of the purse by enacting the Agency Accountability Act
- Ensure the Federal Government does not bailout irresponsible state and local governments by enacting the State and Local Pension Accountability Act
- Make the House's Earmark Ban permanent
- Begin to fix the broken budget process, with reforms such as ending the practice of Unauthorized Sending, allowing multiple reconciliation bills per budget resolution, including the projected debt service costs in estimates of legislation, adopting zero-baseline budgeting, and strengthening the Spending Reduction Accounts
- Consequences for failing to complete our work, such as no budget, no appropriations, no pay or canceling planned district work periods