



**Eric Bunn Sr.**  
*National Secretary-Treasurer*

**Dr. Everett B. Kelley**  
*National President*

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*NVP for Women & Fair Practices*

September 20, 2023

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents more than 750,000 federal and District of Columbia employees, I urge you to oppose H.R. 5525, Continuing Appropriations and Border Security Enhancement Act, 2024 or any other legislative vehicle representing its content and to pass a clean Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Further, Congress must take all necessary measures to enact a responsible FY 2024 appropriations package that funds the federal government at levels that keep pace with inflation and emergency needs and must do so without a government shutdown or further political antics and ultimatums.

Simply put, the political theatrics have got to stop. The refusal of Congress to do its job and put to rest fears of a shutdown or massive and unwarranted cuts is impeding federal employees from doing their jobs, delaying assistance and service to the American people and threatening the health of our economy.

AFGE implores Congress to act immediately to avoid a shutdown and ensure the continuation of funding for the government and critical programs like Social Security, Medicare, veterans benefits and the U.S. military. There must be no negotiation that puts these programs, or any aspect of federal employee compensation at risk.

The Continuing Appropriations and Border Security Enhancement Act, 2024 is the wrong bill to do this job. It makes arbitrary, harmful across-the-board cuts to most federal agencies, reneges on the bipartisan spending agreement enacted less than four months ago in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, and makes it impossible for federal employees to serve the American public's needs. Under this CR, just as the Transportation Security Administration needs to staff up for holiday travel, they will be unable to fill vacancies or new positions, forcing hours-long lines a security checkpoints. The Social Security Administration needs more staff to eliminate backlogs and make sure the American people receive their earned benefits, not across-the-board cuts.

Congress must unite now and move quickly and in a bipartisan manner to enact a full-year funding measure to keep our government running, protect our country and prevent Americans from being denied essential services.

Thank you for considering AFGE's position that Congress must take swift, responsible action. For questions or more information please contact Julie Tippens at [Julie.Tippens@afge.org](mailto:Julie.Tippens@afge.org) or Keith Abouchar at [Keith.Abouchar@afge.org](mailto:Keith.Abouchar@afge.org).

Sincerely,

  
Everett B. Kelley  
National President

