NATIONAL TAXPAYERS UNION

November 17, 2026

Dear Senator:

I write to express our concern regarding reports that a Budget Resolution providing supplemental funding for the Department of War and the Federal Aviation Administration could move through the chamber by the end of this week. We strongly urge you to use this unique opportunity to deliver meaningful **spending reforms and an increase in the debt ceiling** through the end of 2028.

Voters sent a clear message two weeks ago: affordability and the rising cost of living remain their top concerns. The surge in inflation over the past six years has been fueled primarily by the federal government's enormous spending binge. Persistent deficit spending pressures the Federal Reserve to print more money and steadily erodes the purchasing power of working Americans' paychecks. By tackling the growing budget crisis we can meaningfully fight inflation.

The need for spending reforms is real. On the first day of this Congress—January 3, 2025—total public debt stood at $36.2 trillion. It has since grown to $40.6 trillion and counting. Our budget deficit has ballooned to $2 trillion, which is more than double what it was in FY2019. Congress should not waste a real opportunity to build on the generational spending reforms of the Working Families Tax Cuts.

Our government is on pace to hit the debt ceiling in the first quarter of 2027, when a new congressional majority is in place. Unless it is raised during the lame duck period, Democrats will have significant leverage over the Trump Administration to craft a deal that avoids default. They may ask for significant spending increases, rollbacks of the smart welfare reforms from the Working Families Tax Cuts in exchange for their votes, or even to scrap the debt limit altogether.

Addressing unsustainable government spending and the debt ceiling now is a more responsible course for taxpayers than deferring the issue until next year when there will be greater demands in Congress to spend more and expand the size of the government. The opportunity before you today is preferable to the uncertainty and fiscal challenges that would come with waiting.

Please use this unique opportunity to your advantage.

Sincerely,

Brandon Arnold
Executive Vice President
National Taxpayers Union