



July 25, 2019

Dear Members of Congress:

The undersigned organizations collectively represent millions of Americans who are concerned about rising spending and debt. It is on their behalf that we urge you to support smart, forward-looking spending reform.

Our organizations work on a variety of issues on which we do not always agree, but we are united in our concern about the United States' finances. It has been decades since Congress followed its own mandated budget process. The National Debt is \$22 trillion and counting amid historic deficits and looming liabilities in major programs.

The options for fixing this problem are as well-known as they are perpetually ignored, and Congress simply must pursue all avenues for forcing fiscal responsibility.

One such option is Senator Mike Braun and Representative Kevin Brady's Maximizing America's Prosperity (MAP) Act of 2019, which would cap federal primary spending (including both discretionary and entitlement spending) as a percentage of potential GDP.

The bill is similar to the ways other countries have successfully controlled their spending and debt, such as the Swiss Debt Brake or Swedish fiscal control measures. Research from policy experts Dr. Barry Poulson and Dr. John Merrifield (2015) showed that if the United States had pursued its own binding fiscal rules over the same time other countries did, the national debt could have been almost 50% less than what it was.<sup>1</sup>

Demanding that Congress do its most basic duties need not be a difficult request. Lawmakers simply must control spending, pass responsible budgets, and implement binding rules for this generation and the next.

For these reasons, we urge you to co-sponsor and support this critical piece of legislation as a component of desperately needed fiscal responsibility in Washington.

Sincerely,

<sup>1</sup> Poulson, Barry W, and Merrifield, John D. (2016) *Can the Debt Growth Be Stopped?* Lanham, MD, Lexington Books.



Jonathan Bydlak, President  
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Lisa B. Nelson, CEO  
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THE  
MAINE HERITAGE  
POLICY CENTER

*We the people of Maine...*

Phil Kerpen  
*American Commitment*

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*Americans for Prosperity*



Grover Norquist, President  
*Americans for Tax Reform*

Andrew F. Quinlan, President  
*Center for Freedom & Prosperity*



David McIntosh, President  
*Club for Growth*

Thomas A. Schatz, President  
*Council for Citizens Against  
Government Waste*



Adam Brandon, President  
*FreedomWorks*

Kyle Wingfield, President & CEO  
*Georgia Public Policy Foundation*



Jim Lakely, Acting President  
*The Heartland Institute*

Tim Chapman, Executive Director  
*Heritage Action for America*



Heather R. Higgins, CEO  
*Independent Women's Voice*

Matthew Gagnon, CEO  
*Maine Heritage Policy Center*



Dr. Jameson Taylor, VP for Policy  
*Mississippi Center for Public Policy*

Pete Sepp, President  
*National Taxpayers Union*

Wayne Hoffman, President  
*Idaho Freedom Foundation*

Matt Nye, National Chair  
*Republican Liberty Caucus*



Paul Gessing, President  
*Rio Grande Foundation*

David Williams, President  
*Taxpayers Protection Alliance*



Jenny Beth Martin, Honorary  
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