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This is the fourth in a series of letters regarding federal appropriations and President Obama's executive amnesty. On December 11, 2014, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 83, legislation that prevented a government shutdown by providing full appropriations language for 11 of the 12 regular appropriations bills through September of next year. The 12th bill, which funds the Department of Homeland Security, is also included in the legislation, but is funded under a temporary "Continuing Resolution" that expires at the end of February. While not perfect, I supported this important legislation, which even the liberal leaning Washington Post noted was a legislative "victory for congressional Republicans, who were eager to wipe the slate clean of a host of unresolved matters before taking full control of Capitol Hill next year."

By only temporarily funding the 12th bill, the House of Representatives has set the stage to challenge the President on his unlawful executive actions early in the coming year. I believe that we increased our leverage, and ability to gain concessions from the President, by strategically choosing to confront him on this issue when Republicans gain majority control in the Senate. As Chairman of the House Rules Committee, I pledged to bring forward an important legislative amendment from Congressman Mick Mulvaney (R-SC) as early as January that will block federal funds from being used to carry out the president's unlawful executive actions.

The spending levels in this bill are **$176 billion below fiscal year 2010**. When projected out over 10 years, that adds up to saving taxpayers $2.13 trillion. When President Obama took office, the federal government spent $1.12 trillion in discretionary spending. By 2010, that number grew by over 20%. Although our deficit is far higher than I would like, this bill is yet another step in the right direction and reflects the reduced spending priorities that Republicans brought to Congress following our 2010 takeover of the House of Representatives. Discretionary spending in 2015 has fallen back to roughly 2008 levels thanks to the election of more Republicans to Congress. My colleagues and I will continue fighting for smarter budgets and tax reform that will balance the deficit and put our nation back on a path towards fiscal prosperity.

In addition to preventing Harry Reid from being able to shut down the government and change the national narrative, **this legislation provides no new funding for Obamacare, severely guts funding for the IRS and EPA and includes a number of long held Republican priorities that reflect the leverage Republicans are gaining as a result of the midterm elections:**

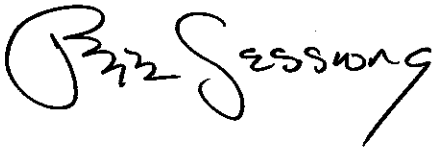
- Slashes funding for the IRS by $364.6 million. (Marking a total $1.2B cut since FY10)
- Slashes funding for the EPA by $60 million. (A total 21 percent cut since FY 2010)
- Provides no new funding for Obamacare and blocks the Prevention and Public Health Fund from being used as a "slush fund" for Obamacare.
- Prohibits funding for Fish and Wildlife Service to issue further rules to place sage-grouse on the Endangered Species List – an action that would have severe economic consequences in Texas.
- Prohibits funds from being used to transfer detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the U.S. and for the construction or acquisition of a facility in the U.S. to house detainees.
- Cuts Obamacare's Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) by $10 million.
- Halts the administration's onerous "light bulb" standards that would have forced manufactures to stop producing incandescent light bulbs.
- Includes provisions to protect Second Amendment rights, including a prohibition on funding for the EPA to regulate lead content in ammunition or fishing tackle.
- Prohibits the IRS from being able to target organizations for regulatory scrutiny based on their ideological beliefs or for exercising their First Amendment rights.
- Includes a new prohibition on implementing the Arms Trade Treaty.
- Amends Dodd-Frank swaps pushout requirements to protect farmers and other commodity producers from having to put down excessive collateral to get a loan, expand their businesses, and hedge their production.
- Fairly funds a 1% pay raise for our troops.
- Blocks federal and local funds implementing DC recreational marijuana referendum.
- Blocks Administration proposal to impose new fees on onshore oil and gas production.
- Prohibits Interior Dept. from designating new wilderness areas on BLM land.
- Retains all existing pro-life provisions and includes three important new ones.
- Allows for increased individual donations to political parties to ensure conventions can be attended by real hardworking Americans and not just the ultra-wealthy on both sides of the aisle. Was necessary due to bipartisan legislation that I supported this past year that diverted $126 million in taxpayer funds for political conventions to the National Institutes of Health for research into childhood cancer and other pediatric diseases and disorders.
- Reduces AMTRAK operations by $90 million.

While far from perfect, this legislation locks in many important policy provisions that Republicans have vetted and worked hard to get codified into law for years despite Democrat opposition. The inclusion of these Republican priorities is a reflection of the leverage Republicans are beginning to gain as a result of the midterm elections. I am

proud to support any legislation that reduces spending, especially when it is adamantly opposed by Nancy Pelosi and the vast majority of her Democrat allies.

I look forward to working with the newly elected Republican Senate to pass more common sense, pro-growth legislation in the coming year. If you have any additional comments, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202.225.2231 or by email at Sessions.Immigration@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress