

July 5, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to ask you to oppose any FY 2018 appropriations bills which include ideological policy riders.

Appropriations bills have been used before to undermine essential safeguards through “policy riders” – provisions that address extraneous policy issues, and are slipped into appropriations bills to win approval as part of must-pass funding legislation. Earlier this year, hundreds of these policy provisions were proposed as a part of the omnibus process, and in the FY18 budget process some members of Congress have already started to insist on ideological riders.

Ideological riders are measures that the public opposes and would be unpopular to move as standalone legislation. The American people support policies to restrain Wall Street abuses and ensure safe and healthy food and products, to protect our air, land, water and wildlife, to ensure safe and fair workplaces, to prevent consumer rip-offs and corporate wrongdoing, to create fair rules of the road for our campaign finance system, to provide access to justice and fair housing, and to ensure continued access to vital health care services including reproductive health care.

Contentious poison pill riders are intended to advance the priorities of special interest donors and supporters and should not be included in funding bills.

President Trump has proposed a budget rigged for billionaires and big business featuring deep cuts that endanger our health and safety, our workplaces and wallets, as well as, our environment and our economy. In addition to being free from poison pill riders, any budget passed through Congress must go far beyond both this paltry Presidential proposal and the obviously inadequate sequester funding levels, to robustly fund agencies and programs to protect the public.

We urge Members of Congress to support increased spending caps while opposing flawed funding proposals that include ideological policy riders.

Sincerely,

National Groups

9to5, National Association of Working Women

Action on Smoking and Health

AFL-CIO

AFSCME

Alliance for Retired Americans

American Association for Justice

American Bird Conservancy

Americans for Financial Reform

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization

Association of Reproductive Health Professionals

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Bend the Arc Jewish Action

Black Women's Health Imperative
Carmelite NGO
Catholics for Choice
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Justice & Democracy
Center for Progressive Reform
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Clean Water Action
Coalition on Human Needs
Common Cause
Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Consumer Action
Corporate Accountability International
Daily Kos
Defenders of Wildlife
Democracy 21
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Economic Policy Institute Policy Center
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Family Equality Council
Franciscan Action Network
Free Press Action Fund
Friends of the Earth
Government Accountability Project
GreenLatinos
Grounded Solutions Network
Hip Hop Caucus
Hispanic Federation
Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings
ICAST (International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology)
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Interfaith Power & Light
Jewish Women International
Just Foreign Policy
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of Conservation Voters
Main Street Alliance
NAACP
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association of Consumer Advocates
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality

National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
National Council for Occupational Safety and Health
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Immigration Law Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Partnership for Women & Families
National WIC Association
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
Natural Resources Defense Council
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New America's Open Technology Institute
New Progressive Alliance
Newtown Action Alliance
Oceana
PAI
People For the American Way
Physicians for Social Responsibility
PLACE
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
PolicyLink
Population Connection Action Fund
Population Institute
Power Shift Network
Progressive Congress Action Fund
Public Citizen
Public Knowledge
Rachel Carson Council
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
Safe Climate Campaign
Service Employees International Union
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Sierra Club
SiX Action
Stand Up America
States United to Prevent Gun Violence
The Arc of the United States
The Bright Lines Project
The Center for Reproductive Rights
The Impact Fund
The Wilderness Society
U.S. PIRG

Union of Concerned Scientists
United Church of Christ, OC Inc.
United Steelworkers
Voces Verdes
Voices for Progress
Woodstock Institute
Workplace Fairness
Young Invincibles

State Groups

AIDS Alabama, Inc.
Alaska Wilderness League
Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey
Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness
Arizona Housing Alliance
CASA of Oregon
Church Women United in New York State
Cornerstone Housing Inc., Florida
Earth Action, Inc., Florida
Empower Missouri
Equality California
Florida Alliance for Consumer Protection
Habitat for Humanity Virginia
Housing Action Illinois
Housing Community Development Network of New Jersey
Housing Works Rhode Island
Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Massachusetts Consumers Council
Monarch Housing Associates, New Jersey
Montana Environmental Information Center
New Jersey Association on Correction
New Jim Crow Movement, Florida and California
Ohio CDC Association
PeterCares House, Maryland
Public Justice Center, Maryland
The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition
Virginia Housing Alliance
Washington Low Income Housing Alliance

Local Groups

AFGE Council 238
Alfred E Smirh Resident Association, New York, NY
Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. DBA Matthew's Place, Atlanta, GA
Central New York Citizens in Action, Inc., Utica, NY
Clarksburg-Harrison Regional Housing Authority, Harrison County, WV
Family Emergency Shelter Coalition (FESCO), Hayward, Alameda County, CA
Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, Kansas City, MO
Harrington Investments, Inc., Napa, CA

Homeless Solutions, Inc., Morris County, NJ
Homestead Affordable Housing, Inc., Holton, KS
Housing Authority of the City of Columbia, MO
JCTOD Outreach, Inc. (dba) Johnson Park Center (JPC), Utica, NY
Lake County Crisis Center, Lake County, OR
Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County, PA
Plymouth Housing Group, Seattle, WA
ROSE Community Development, Portland, OR
Seattle Human Services Coalition, Seattle, WA
Sitka Community Land Trust, Sitka, AL
South Florida Community Development Coalition, Miami-Dade, FL
South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
Springfield Housing Authority, Springfield, IL
The Architects Collective, Los Angeles, CA
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice & Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition, Toledo, OH
YWCA-GCR, Inc., New York, NY
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Chicago, IL