

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

May 1, 2023

Dear Colleague:

Last week, House Republicans sent a hard-right ransom note to the American people. The Republicans' Default on America Act (DOA) offers two choices: either default on the debt or default on America, forcing steep cuts to law enforcement, veterans, families, teachers, and kids. Democrats will not allow it. Put plainly, Republican's Default on America Act pushes us closer to default.

This bill was hastily drafted and forced through the House at a break-neck speed. Not a single Committee of jurisdiction held a hearing or a mark-up on a bill that would fundamentally remake American society. The Senate will show the public what this bill truly is. Beginning this week, our Committees will begin to hold hearings to expose the true impact of this reckless legislation on everyday Americans. On Thursday, the Budget Committee will hold a hearing on the Default on America Act.

The DOA would have real, dramatic impacts on the American families in all of our states. For example, the DOA would gut Medicaid for over 20 million Americans, rip away SNAP benefits for over a million recipients and eliminate Pell grants for tens of thousands of American students every year. Last week, I held a call with reporters from Upstate New York to highlight the 2 million New Yorkers who would lose their Medicaid because of this dangerous Republican proposal. I encourage you to make clear how devastating this proposal truly is to your constituents through public events and press.

Speaker McCarthy has surrendered to the far-right extremist members of his caucus and the DOA is their crown jewel. In backrooms, they pulled together a slew of unpatriotic and harmful policies that would take the country backwards. The DOA would cut critical funding to nearly all sectors of American life meaning fewer jobs, higher costs, and leaving policemen, first responders, border patrol, and our brave veterans all hanging out to dry. The DOA would repeal the historic green energy tax credits from the *Inflation Reduction Act*, threatening over \$150 billion in investments and 18,000 jobs that have been announced since Democrats passed that bill. The DOA would hamper our international standing by gutting funding for critical State Department programs and cutting-edge research facilities and sending jobs overseas.

Let's be perfectly clear: The Republican Default on America Act does nothing to actually resolve the looming debt crisis, and it has no hope of ever becoming law. If anything, the MAGA House Republicans' actions have increased the likelihood of default. It locks the House into an unacceptable and extreme position that pulls us even further apart. If Speaker McCarthy was a serious good-faith negotiator, he would not have let extremists take him hostage and move this debate in the wrong direction.

As Democrats have been saying for months, the real solution is bipartisan support for a clean bill to increase the debt limit and avoid default. Speaker McCarthy and the MAGA House Republicans

have moved the process backwards through their far-right ransom note. We cannot move forward as long as Republicans threaten our country with default.

Addressing the debt limit is about meeting obligations the government has already made. The American people expect our Republican colleagues to live up to their responsibilities and ensure America makes good on the debts incurred. A reckless Republican-forced default could plunge the country into a deep and painful recession and destabilize the global economy. We will do everything we can to protect the American people and prevent a default.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator