Hon. Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

September 27, 2021

Dear Senator McConnell:

On three occasions over the past four years, the previous president and the Republican Senate, in which you served as Majority Leader, asked Democrats to do the responsible thing for the American people and vote to suspend the debt limit. Every signatory to this letter did so at least once, setting aside the temptation to extract political pain, in order to ensure that our country could pay its bills.

We agreed with your assessment in 2017, 2018, and 2019 that the consequence of inaction would be, as you said, “a debt limit crisis that could put our full faith and credit at risk.” Indeed, we also agree with your statement last week that, “The country must never default. The debt ceiling will need to be raised.” In this instance, the American people would confront a default crisis at a much more vulnerable moment as the economy recovers from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is time for you and the Republican Conference you lead to do as we did before – to do the right thing, the necessary thing, to avert a manufactured crisis.

Holding the debt limit hostage, as you and forty-five of your Republican Senate colleagues have said you will do, is a dangerous, illogical, and irresponsible way to express that concern. Whatever you think about the policy agenda that the current administration and the Democratic majorities in Congress are pursuing, we know you agree that it would be dangerous malpractice to allow our economy to be unnecessarily crippled by political uncertainty over a possible default on our obligations as a country. You said as much as two years ago when you last voted to suspend the debt ceiling. We hope you will do your part – and that you will convince your fellow Republican senators will do theirs – to ensure that our economic recovery can move forward without this brinksmanship.

Sincerely,
Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
John Yarmuth  
Member of Congress  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress  

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress  
David Scott  
Member of Congress  

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress  
James A. Himes  
Member of Congress  

Colin Z. Alfred  
Member of Congress  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress  
Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress  

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress  
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress  
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress  

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress  

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress  

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress  

Al Green  
Member of Congress  

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress  

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress  

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress  

Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress  

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress  

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress  

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress  

Susie Lee  
Member of Congress  

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress  

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress
Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

David J. Trone  
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress