



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6501

December 7, 2023

Dear Colleague,

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I write to update you on the status of important legislative items and to advise you of my plans for the balance of the first session of the 118th Congress and the beginning of the second session.

First, our conferees for the National Defense Authorization Act have reached an agreement with their Senate counterparts that delivers on our promise to focus the bill on core national defense priorities and avoid non-germane topics that distract from security issues. We succeeded in reducing extraneous provisions hitching a ride to the NDAA, which is evidenced by the fact that the final bill is 2,100 pages shorter than last year. While no compromise with the Democrat-led Senate and White House would be perfect, the final product includes meaningful changes to return the Department of Defense's focus back to the business of defending our nation and away from social experiments in woke ideology. The conference agreement will provide our warfighters with the tools they need to do their job and the resources required to support their families. Critically, it will ensure the education their children receive is overseen first and foremost by parents who are empowered by a codified Parents' Bill of Rights.

Second, we are scheduling for the House to consider next week reforms and extensions of authorities under the Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act, including the section 702 authorities that are slated to expire at the end of the year. My intention is to bring the bills reported by the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees to the floor under a special rule that provides members a fair opportunity to vote in favor of their preferred measure. Further, we have received commitments from Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell that the Senate will work in good faith on a final reform bill that can be passed in both chambers. To provide the necessary time to facilitate the reform process in a manner that will not conflict with our existing appropriations deadlines and other conflicts, the NDAA conference agreement necessarily includes a short-term extension of the 702 authorities through April 19 of next year.

Third, I would like to update you on the ongoing negotiations surrounding the completion of the FY 2024 appropriations process and any potential supplemental appropriations. It continues to be my intention that the House and Senate complete action on full-year bills ahead of the January 19 and February 2 deadlines provided for in the last continuing resolution. I do not intend to have the House consider any further short-term extensions. The Fiscal Responsibility Act is the law of the land, supported by over two-thirds of our Conference, and it provides the framework from which we are negotiating final outcomes.



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Finally, as for the administration's request for supplemental security funding, while we understand the very real security threats in theatres around the world, yesterday's failed Senate vote has demonstrated there is no path forward on Ukraine funding without meaningful, transformative change in policy at our southern border. Furthermore, as I have said repeatedly, the House passed funding for Israel over a month ago in a bipartisan manner. I remain hopeful that we will find reasonable partners on the other side who recognize that reality and are willing to reach consensus on these urgent matters.

I want to thank you all for your dedicated work over the last several weeks. Despite the challenges that naturally come in a narrowly divided body, especially one going up against a Senate and White House controlled by the other party, we have proven our ability to govern effectively while still advancing a bold, conservative agenda and honoring the trust the American people have placed in our majority. We have important tasks ahead of us and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with you all in these critical times for our country.

I wish you and your families a blessed Holiday season, and I look forward to finishing the work to which we have been called.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Johnson" with a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House