



A Union of Professionals

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Dear Congressional Leadership

The undersigned organizations—representing millions of Americans—strongly urge you to raise the debt limit without hesitation or precondition. Risking a first-time default would be catastrophic for our economy and for families across the nation.

Raising the debt limit is not a new or radical idea. It simply allows the government to meet previous obligations made by congressional majorities and presidents of both parties. It ensures that the sanctity of our fiscal word is never questioned or compromised. That is why Congress has worked in a bipartisan manner to raise the debt limit with no strings attached, including three times under the Trump administration.

Preserving the trust that the U.S. government will pay its bills on time and in full is critical to protecting our economy and the millions of livelihoods that depend on this stability. If the government defaults or cannot pay its bills, families and businesses may not be able to pay their own bills. It would also spike interest rates on everything from cars to mortgages to credit cards to student loans, resulting in thousands of dollars in unexpected costs for average Americans. Finally, failure to pay our bills on time would have devastating effects on Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and veteran benefits, severely disrupting beneficiaries' ability to pay for healthcare, food, rent, utilities or other necessary expenses.

Again, we urge you to pass a clean bill raising the debt limit soon and avoid unnecessarily jeopardizing our economy and threatening the financial health of American families.

aft.org/debtceiling

