

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H232 United States Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H204 United States Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy, and Schumer:

Considering the emergency measures currently under consideration to address the spread and effects of COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus, we write to respectfully request that you immediately bring forward legislation that checks the measures currently under consideration with fiscal restraint.

As you know, our nation's debt recently surpassed \$23 trillion. With every hour that passes, we add \$100 million to that figure. That is an unconscionable dismissal of responsibility to taxpayers and one that will saddle future generations with an unbearable burden if not addressed.

There is no doubt that the Coronavirus will take a heavy toll on our nation's public health, finances, and quality of life. That our government is responding with speed and vigor in a bipartisan manner is applaudable, but we must not act with complete fiscal abandon. That is why we must couple our immediate proactive national response with legislation that can stabilize our national finances over time. Our public health crisis will pass but our fiscal crisis will last if we do not act.

We call your attention to three tried and tested measures that we urge you to include in your considerations: Offsets for any additional spending included in emergency measures, sunsets for programs or regulations, and the reimplementing of federal budget spending caps on discretionary spending. Every private business, organization, and household makes sacrifices when ends do not meet or emergencies strike. Our national government must be prepared to do the same.

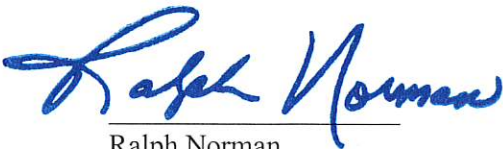
Just as some programs prove ineffective or misplaced and must sunset, so too is the case for government rules and regulations. We have always known that many of these regulations are unnecessary, but now the Coronavirus has demonstrated that some of them are also dangerous. Take the case of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which was required to issue a permit before individual States could create laboratories for designing virus tests, and equally had to give its approval before private companies like LabCorp and Hologic could provide manufacturing and distribution. In a crisis when time is of the essence, stakeholders had to wait for the slow gears of bureaucracy to move before taking action to save lives. Countless rules have now been waived for agencies to take swift and decisive action, which

demonstrates the real harm of a prohibitive regulatory system. As this pandemic has shown, we ask that as a Congress we revisit many of these regulations immediately.

While offsets and sunset dates require Congress to do the hard work of picking and choosing, there are instruments that offer broader and much more significant reform. The good news is that Congress has already used such laws in the past to restrain spending and move toward a more balanced budget: Budget caps. These caps are an effective tool to cut spending across the board and are one of the most effective paths to balance the budget. We respectfully urge that you consider re-enacting spending caps to preserve our ability to defend our nation, protect our seniors, and return our nation to a fiscally stable path.

Let us work on a strong bipartisan response to save the Americans of this generation from the virus but let us also work to preserve our institutions such that we can hand down our great Republic to the next.

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

Other Signers:

Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC-03)  
Rep. Tim Burchett (TN-02)  
Rep. Alex X. Mooney (WV-02)  
Rep. Kevin Hern (OK-01)  
Rep. Ron Wright (TX-06)  
Rep. Mo Brooks (AL-05)  
Rep. W. Gregory Steube (FL-17)  
Rep. Dan Bishop (NC-09)  
Rep. David Schweikert (AZ-06)  
Rep. Scott DesJarlais, M.D. (TN-04)  
Rep. Andy Harris, M.D. (MD-01)  
Rep. Steve King (IA-04)  
Rep. Ross Spano (FL-15)  
Rep. Ken Buck (CO-04)  
Rep. Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S (AZ-04)  
Rep. Andy Biggs (AZ-05)  
Rep. Denver Riggleman (VA-05)  
Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-01)