

Draft Letter to Senators

The Honorable (insert full name of your Senator)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (insert last name):

As the Senate begins consideration of its version of the FY2011 Continuing Resolution, I urge you to strongly oppose any legislative proposals that would produce a CR that is in any way similar to the draconian version passed by the House of Representatives.

The House Continuing Resolution proposes cuts that will be a disaster for the existing fabric of American life. It would cripple the programs ordinary Americans rely on every day and lead to federal employee layoffs. This will mean, among many other things:

- Less assistance from Social Security for retirees and people with disabilities
- Less capacity on the part of EPA to keep polluters from fouling our air and water
- Significantly fewer food safety inspections and thus greater threats of contaminated food finding its way into schools, grocery stores, and restaurants
- Fewer federal law enforcement officers to protect our borders and communities
- Fewer resources for Veterans' hospitals so our wounded warriors will have to make do with crumbling facilities.

It is shocking to me that legislation this extreme – legislation that shows a total disregard for the well-being of our communities -- could ever pass the House of Representatives. As the Senate begins debate over its continuing resolution, I also urge you not to consider "compromise" proposals that are severe in and of themselves, but not as severe as provisions in the House bill. Any proposals – freezes or cuts -- that end up crippling essential services and laying off workers undermines our well-being. Congress should be about cutting waste – not essential services that Americans rely on. And Congress should not be about adding any worker to unemployment lines.

Our country is at an historic crossroads. We can address the issues we face with compassion and a strong commitment to the democratic, civil and workers rights' that define who we are as Americans. Or we can dissolve into a country that rejects our responsibility to one another and to strengthening our communities. The House Continuing Resolution takes us at accelerated speed down the road to disaster. I urge you to support a Continuing Resolution that changes course and guarantees that our social and moral fabric does not totally unravel.

Sincerely,