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July 25, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to vote yes on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, H.R. 3877, to increase the restrictive budget caps on discretionary spending and prevent deep, harmful cuts in essential public services.

While the levels provided in the discretionary cap are less than ideal, it is an important step to avoid the draconian cut of \$55 billion required under the current cap and to ensure that the 2020 Census can proceed as required by the Constitution.

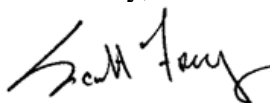
The increases in the caps can ensure that the economy is stable and public services can operate reliably. Federal funding is responsible for more than 30 percent of state budgets and more than 20 percent of state and local government budgets combined. Our nation's budget should prioritize working and retired families, create good jobs, improve our crumbling infrastructure and provide critical public services that benefit all Americans, not just the wealthy few.

AFSCME strongly supports investments in public services that strengthen our communities and reflect the needs of working families including education, health services, job training, infrastructure, transit, water systems, and public safety.

With members in communities across the nation, serving in hundreds of different occupations from nurses to correction officers, paraprofessionals for students with disabilities to student financial aid staff, sanitation workers to civil engineers who design and monitor clean water systems for municipalities, and state employees ensuring that individuals seeking job training and assistance have access to needed services – AFSCME members provide the vital services that make America happen and keep America strong.

In conclusion, I urge you to support H.R. 3877 to ensure that the essential public services working families depend on have adequate federal investments.

Sincerely,



Scott Frey  
Director of Federal Government Affairs

SF/BL:cg

**American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO**

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