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HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

VICE CHAIRMAN

DEPUTY WHIP



COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
THE CONSTITUTION, AND LIMITED
GOVERNMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER
AND PROJECTION FORCES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2023

Dear friends,

We all agree the urgency of this hour demands that the next Speaker of the House must present a specific plan for bold, decisive action that will: engage our Members in productive work as one successful team; advance our key principles and legislative priorities; and allow us to demonstrate good governance. *Governing well will ensure that we meet the unprecedented challenges of today and expand our majority next year.*

We must take action right away. I would begin by proposing the following immediate steps concerning our unfinished appropriations bills, and our schedule for the remainder of this Congress.

Appropriations

We all understand that our next Speaker must be prepared to negotiate from a position of strength with the Democrat-controlled Senate and White House. The only way to secure that position is for the House to have passed all twelve of our appropriations measures. I am confident we can work together to accomplish that objective quickly, in a manner that delivers on our principled commitments to rein in wasteful spending, and put our country back on a path to fiscal responsibility. It will be challenging work, but we can and will do it.

In the interest of time, I would propose that we seek consensus to discharge the last two appropriations bills—Labor, HHS, and Education and Commerce, Justice, and Science—from the Appropriations Committee. We should also create a new working group to address Member concerns with the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration appropriations bill. As all of this is being completed, if another stopgap measure is needed to extend government funding beyond the November 17 deadline, I would propose a measure that expires on January 15 or April 15 (based on what can obtain Conference consensus), to ensure the Senate cannot jam the House with a Christmas omnibus. Meanwhile, I would suggest the following calendar adjustments for considering appropriations on the House Floor:

- **Week of October 23:** Energy and Water
- **Week of October 30:** Legislative Branch, Interior and Environment, THUD
- **Week of November 6:** FSGG, CJS
- **Week of November 13:** Labor/HHS, Ag

This is an ambitious schedule, but if our Speaker can work across the Conference to unify our membership and build consensus, we can achieve our necessary objectives.

In addition to our work on appropriations, I would propose to the Majority Leader the following modifications to the schedule for the House, provided there is consensus within the Conference:

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October-November

1. Pass Chairman McCaul's resolution condemning Hamas.
2. Reach consensus for a legislative blueprint through the end of the 118th Congress.
3. Pass all appropriations bills and begin negotiating with the White House and Senate.
4. Begin conference negotiations with the Senate on the FY24 NDAA.
5. Begin negotiations on the FAA reauthorization as soon as the Senate passes it.
6. Return to legislating and effectively messaging on our top issues and priorities.

December

1. Continue negotiating FY24 appropriations.
2. Pass the conference report for the FY24 NDAA.
3. Pass the Farm Bill and await Senate action. Begin negotiations as soon as possible.

January-April

1. Continue negotiating FY24 appropriations to secure conservative wins for the American people.
2. Build conference consensus regarding 2025 budget levels and pass a budget resolution.

May-July

1. Complete House consideration of FY25 appropriations bills.
2. Complete House consideration of WRDA 2024.
3. Complete House consideration of FY25 NDAA.

August

1. DO NOT break for district work period unless all 12 appropriations bills have passed the House.

September

1. Wrap up negotiations with the White House and Senate on appropriations, NDAA, and WRDA.

October-December

1. EXPAND OUR MAJORITY.
2. Complete any outstanding legislative items.

For freedom,



Mike Johnson