

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0545

November 10, 2022

Dear Colleague,

I write to respectfully request your support for my candidacy for Chair/Ranking Member of the House Committee on the Budget.

First, I want to thank Chairman John Yarmuth for his leadership of the Committee and years of service in Congress. John has kept the Committee focused on the important issues facing our country and all the issues under the Budget Committee's jurisdiction. His masterful leadership guiding the Committee and Congress through not one, but two budget reconciliation resolutions resulted in the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act becoming law. I have learned much serving with John on the committee over the last eight years.

If chosen to serve as the lead Democrat on the Committee, one of my top priorities will be defending the core principles and programs of our Party, such as Social Security and Medicare, from the attack that has already been launched by our Republican colleagues. The Republicans did not even wait until after the election before once again making clear they will pursue their decades-long goal of gutting Social Security. Specifically, they want to raise the retirement age, move towards privatization, and attempt to subject both programs to dramatic cuts every five years through the budget process. The Budget Committee has a unique and important role as a bulwark against these attacks and, if given the chance to lead, I stand ready for this fight.

As you may know, one of my main areas of focus since coming to Congress almost a decade ago has been addressing the perennial crisis created by the debt ceiling. For three Congresses in a row, I have introduced legislation to do just that. Earlier this year, I was proud to introduce bicameral legislation with Chairman Yarmuth and Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin that would put an end to the brinksmanship of the debt ceiling process. And, in response to recent and repeated threats from Republican leaders about their plans to hold the debt ceiling hostage next year, I led a letter to House and Senate Leadership last week—signed by over 30 Members of our Caucus—urging them to take prompt and decisive action on the borrowing limit before the start of the 118th Congress.

Additionally, we can fully expect our Republican colleagues to use the global inflation crisis to weaponize the federal budget process and attempt to revive their long-discredited austerity agenda. We Democrats must never forget our Republican colleagues go from the party of (in the words of former Vice President Dick Cheney) “deficits do not matter” to fiscal hawks wholly dependent upon whom is in the White House. The most recent example of this is the (ironically entitled) Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, which increased the federal deficit by almost \$2 trillion while giving enormous tax cuts to the nation's most wealthy corporations and individuals. Undoubtedly, Republicans will now use global inflation pressures to attack critical federal spending programs.

I am honored to already have committed support from a wide cross-section of our Caucus, including members in the New Dems, CPC, and Blue Dogs. Now more than ever, with so much at stake, we must band together as Democrats.

I look forward to talking with you to discuss how the Budget Committee can serve the needs and priorities of the Caucus, the Congress, and the American public. Thank you in advance for your thoughts and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brendan F. Boyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress