

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

September 12, 2023

Dear Congressional Leaders,

We, the undersigned organizations representing millions of hard working Americans and their families around the country, urge you to reject the Biden administration’s recent [\\$40.1 billion supplemental appropriations request](#) to Congress.

The use of an “emergency” supplemental appropriation reeks of the worst of Washington swampiness. While the war in Ukraine, natural disasters, and the border crisis are all serious issues, none were unforeseen at the start of the FY2024 appropriations process. Consideration of these appropriations should be part of the standard annual congressional appropriations process, which is ongoing. The use of a supplemental is intended to sidestep the critical work of allocating America’s scarce resources to the needs that matter most – perhaps the single most important constitutional duty Congress maintains.

Furthermore, conservatives have long demanded federal government spending exist within our means and be directed towards clear policy goals within the scope of the federal government’s constitutional role. This \$40.1 billion supplemental appropriations request fails to meet those basic tenets. Congress must not enact a special appropriation to aimlessly fund a foreign war, irresponsibly replenish continuously exploited disaster relief accounts, and further enable the Biden administration’s self-inflicted border crisis.

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Congress [approved](#) over \$113 billion in “aid and military assistance to support the Ukrainian government and allied nations,” equal to roughly [\\$900 per American household](#). Yet, no publicly available accounting of how the U.S. economic and military funding has been used in Ukraine exists, and the Biden administration has failed to articulate a strategic plan or defined the end goal of this spending. Greenlighting the administration’s recent request for an additional \$24 billion to fund the war does not serve the interests of the American people. Absent a clear plan to achieve America’s strategic interests and accountability to ensure what’s been spent has not been wasted, Congress must reject additional funding for Ukraine.

By the end of FY2023, the Biden administration is expected to have drained \$24.9 billion – nearly half – of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) on COVID-19. Now, the administration asks Congress for an additional \$12 billion to

paper over their irresponsible draining of the DRF. Worse, they hold the replenishment of a fund meant to assist Americans suffering from disasters hostage by tying it to unrelated issues, namely the war in Ukraine.

This supplemental request also includes \$4 billion in funding to “manage the Southwest border safely and effectively.” While this is often referred to as “border security,” the reality is that the spending would not make progress towards preventing future surges of illegal aliens and instead would fuel the crisis. In fact, by funneling more [grants to non-governmental organizations](#) (NGOs) who relocate illegal aliens to every state, city, and congressional district in America the net result will be to continue incentivizing border crossings and all forms of human and drug trafficking. To underscore what the House of Representatives made clear with passage of H.R. 2, the “Secure the Border Act,” Congress should reject this portion of the supplemental request entirely and use the FY24 appropriations process to defund open-borders operations and transfer such funds to real border security and enforcement measures.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage Congress to reject the administration’s unreasonable “emergency” funding request.

Sincerely,

Kevin Roberts Ph.D.  
President  
The Heritage Foundation

Ryan Walker  
Acting Executive Director  
Heritage Action for America

Brooke Rollins  
President and CEO  
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Jenny Beth Martin  
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Wade Miller  
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