

November 17, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General
Government
2078 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chair Van Hollen, Chairwoman DeLauro and Chair Quigley:

We write to thank you for your inclusion of important reforms in the Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill that will help reinforce Congress's constitutional powers over spending. We appreciate your leadership in moving these reforms forward, and urge you to include these provisions in legislation providing funding for the remainder of FY 2022.

Specifically, sections 204, 747, 748, and 749 will help Congress reassert its power of the purse by requiring the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to show Congress and the public basic information about how OMB manages federal funding through the apportionment process, and by helping to ensure that federal funds are spent in accord with appropriations laws passed by Congress and signed by the President. Similar provisions that would make permanent reforms are included in the Congressional Power of the Purse Act and Protecting Our Democracy Act, reintroduced earlier this year.

While we have varying views on other parts of the legislation, including topline spending levels and spending priorities, our organizations strongly support the continued inclusion of these

commonsense, pro-transparency sections. Irrespective of how much the federal government spends and what it spends that money on, Americans have the right to know how their tax dollars are being spent. The provisions you have included and that we cite above would help make that essential information public, and we thank you for your continued leadership in advancing these provisions in this year's funding cycle.

Sincerely,

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington

Demand Progress

National Taxpayers Union

Niskanen Center

Project on Government Oversight

Protect Democracy

Public Citizen

Stand Up America

Taxpayers for Common Sense