



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Kenny Marchant
United States House of Representatives
2369 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Marchant,

I write in support of H.R. 523, the Debt Transparency and Accountability Act. This legislation creates a clear framework for holding the administration accountable for any increase in the debt and requires the Treasury Secretary to produce options for reducing the debt. This bill passed in the last Congress with bipartisan support, so legislators on both sides of the aisle should have no problem in supporting this key piece of legislation.

This legislation requires the Treasury Secretary to appear before the House Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee between 21 and 60 days before it is anticipated that the debt limit will be reached. Specifically, the Secretary will be required to present a detailed report outlining the nation's financial state while also proposing substantive reforms.

Firstly, the Secretary will be required to report on the current state of the debt (including historical levels of debt, current composition of debt, and future debt projections). Secondly, this bill will require the administration to propose detailed proposals to reduce the debt in the short-term, medium-term, and long-term.

Thirdly, the legislation requires the administration to project how increasing the debt limit will affect future spending, debt service, and the strength and stability of the U.S. dollar as the international reserve currency.

Lastly, the Secretary will be required to report projections of the long-term sustainability of mandatory entitlement programs including Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

In addition, the legislation requires the Treasury Secretary to present progress reports on efforts to reduce the debt when returning to Congress to ask for future debt ceiling increases.

The Debt Transparency and Accountability Act creates a clear, yet comprehensive framework that any administration must follow to reduce federal debt when requesting a debt limit increase. By requiring the submission of a detailed report and comprehensive plan before Congress, H.R. 523 ensures that increasing the debt ceiling only occurs as part of a framework of serious proposals to reform the nation's finances and chart a pathway toward fiscal responsibility.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist
President, Americans for Tax Reform

722 12th Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

www.atr.org