**Talking Points**

**Funding our government is not optional – it’s a requirement of serving in Congress.** Instead of doing their jobs, lawmakers are threatening to inject unrelated and controversial issues into the process. Special favors for corporations and ideological extremists have no place in the budget.

**The funding proposals for 2018 are rigged for billionaires and CEOs.** They make deep and painful cuts to the programs and protections that allow American families and communities to thrive – while showering big banks, big polluters and corporate predators with special favors.

**Partisan riders are a ploy to attack, weaken and rollback public protections**. They allow the congressional majority to deliver on the laundry list of demands from wealthy corporations and the richest one percent. No final funding package should include these types of provisions.

**Poison pill policy riders don’t belong in any budget.** Rolling back Wall Street reforms, blocking clean air and water protections, and attacking women’s health care have nothing to do with funding our government. These measures could not become law on their own merits – even with Republicans controlling Congress and the White House. That’s why some lawmakers are trying to attach them to must-pass budget legislation like appropriations bills as riders.

**Americans have a right to expect a clean budget with no harmful riders**. Members of Congress need to stop playing partisan games with the budget. Congress needs to pass a clean budget with no harmful riders, one that funds and protects our families and communities.

**There is an indisputable difference between partisan policy riders that hurt the public and popular policy solutions that are necessary and will help many.** Policy solutions with broad bipartisan support are not only appropriate; they are necessary to address urgent situations or to extend essential services. Examples include extending the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), providing disaster funding to deal with catastrophic storms and wildfires, and protecting Dreamers.

**Call Script**

*Please call your two senators and member of Congress. When you call, be polite but firm. Make sure to say that you are from your home state.*

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_ and I’m calling from (City, State). I’d like to leave a message for Senator / Representative \_\_\_\_\_.

I’m calling to express my concern about the hundreds of harmful poison pill policy riders that are attached to appropriations legislation. These measures are just special favors for ideological extremists and big corporations, and they have no business being part of legislation that is supposed to fund our government.

Please keep the inappropriate poison pill riders out of the appropriations bills, and pass a budget that protects our families and communities. Thank you.