June 20, 2018

Dear Senator,

As a part of the Clean Budget Coalition, we, the undersigned organizations write to ask you to oppose adding ideological poison pill policy riders to the Senate FY 2019 minibus of the Legislative Branch, Energy & Water and Military Construction–Veterans Affairs appropriations bills.

Time and time again, members of Congress attempt to quietly slip in special interest wish list items that couldn’t pass as standalone legislation into must-pass funding packages as poison pill riders.

Appropriations bills must not be misused to undermine essential safeguards. Slipping unrelated and damaging issues into must-pass appropriations bills as a means to win approval is a dangerous strategy for the public.

Poison pill riders are unpopular and damaging, and the public opposes using them to roll back public protections. The American people support policies to:

* Restrain Wall Street abuses;
* Ensure safe and healthy food and products;
* Secure our air, land, water and wildlife;
* Safeguard fair and safe workplaces;
* Guard against consumer rip-offs and corporate wrongdoing;
* Defend our campaign finance and election systems;
* Provide access to justice and fair housing;
* Protect civil rights; and
* Guarantee continued access to vital health care services including reproductive health care, and more.

This year, in addition to threatening the budget process with harmful riders, the White House proposed a rescissions package that would claw back billions in funds already appropriated in past spending packages and are especially targeting the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Like poison pill riders, rescissions cater to ideological extremists, represent a breach of regular order and threaten Congress’ ability to reach bipartisan spending agreements.

We urge Members of Congress to oppose the White House rescissions package, to abide by the funding numbers agreed upon in that deal to fund the essential programs our nation needs for FY19, and to reject any flawed spending measures that includes poison pill policy riders.

Sincerely,

National Groups

Action on Smoking and Health

AFL-CIO

AFSCME

Alaska Wilderness League

American Association for Justice

American Federation of Teachers

Americans for Financial Reform

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Bend the Arc Jewish Action

Black Women's Health Imperative

Center for Reproductive Rights

Clean Water Action

Coalition on Human Needs

Common Cause

Communications Workers of America (CWA)

Compassion & Choices

Consumer Federation of America

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Democracy 21

Earthjustice

Endangered Species Coalition

Farmworker Justice

Friends of the Earth - US

Hip Hop Caucus

Hispanic Federation

Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings

Impact Fund

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW

Jewish Women International

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

League of Conservation Voters

League of Women Voters of the United States

Main Street Alliance

NARAL Pro-Choice America

National Association for College Admission Counseling

National Association of Consumer Advocates

National Coalition for the Homeless

National Council of Jewish Women

National Education Association

National Employment Law Project

National Health Care for the Homeless Council

National Low Income Housing Coalition

National Women's Health Network

National Women's Law Center

Natural Resources Defense Council

New Progressive Alliance

Oceana

PAI

People For the American Way

PLACE

Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Population Institute

Power Shift Network

Protect All Children's Environment

Public Citizen

Public Knowledge

Rachel Carson Council

Restore America's Estuaries

Safe Climate Campaign

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Sierra Club

The Arc of the United States

The Wilderness Society

U.S. PIRG

Union of Concerned Scientists

Voices for Progress

Workplace Fairness

Young Invincibles

State Groups

Hispanic Federation, Connecticut

Hispanic Federation, Florida

New Jersey Association on Correction, New Jersey

Public Justice Center, Maryland

Save Our Sky Blue Waters, Minnesota