

PDA

(Date of Delivery)

The Honorable Senator (Senator's Full Name)

(Office Street Address)

(City, State Zip)

Dear Senator (Senator's Last Name):

The stakes are high in Congress this month. The \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill represents a unique opportunity to improve the lives of Americans, create greater social cohesion, and show the world that democratic governance remains the best way to address the challenges of the 21st Century. This is an opportunity we must seize.

Please vote for the complete \$3.5 Trillion reconciliation package - and oppose any proposed reduction in its size and scope.

To appreciate the gravity of the moment, we must be honest about the state of our country. America remains as dynamic a society as any in human history. However, life has become far too difficult for far too many people in a country so wealthy. Half the population lives in a state of economic precarity. When compared to other industrialized countries, the United States is at, or near, the bottom of social indices for health, diet, mental illness, drug addiction, crime, divorce, child poverty, wealth inequality, etc. This didn't used to be the case.

For the past forty years, US government policy has emphasized market-based solutions for economic and social concerns - rejecting the approach that was central to US policy from the 1930s to the 1970s, including stricter regulations and direct fiscal spending. We've learned a lot over these past forty years. Markets can indeed generate phenomenal wealth. However, that wealth is poorly distributed. Also, deregulated markets have failed to deliver adequately on many fronts, including social necessities like health care, education, childcare, housing, etc. The market has also failed as a steward of nature.

Over the next month, Congress has an opportunity to set a new course. The programs in the reconciliation bill break with the approach of the past forty years. They use a mix of market incentives, regulations, and direct fiscal expenditure, to address endemic problems that markets alone cannot solve in healthcare, education, housing, and the cost of raising a family. All of these disproportionately impact poor, working and middle class households, and communities of color. The reconciliation bill uses similar strategies to address the climate emergency and achieve the necessary result: a transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. To top it off, costs are covered through progressive taxation, and money saved from ending fossil fuel subsidies and by allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

Taken as a whole, the reconciliation bill will ensure that the economy and American society as a whole better responds to the needs of the people and the planet. As such, it is proof that our

representative democratic system can lead the way in crafting political solutions to the crises of the 21st century.

Now is the time to think big. Now is the time to invest in the country, the people, and the planet. Now is the time to support the complete \$3.5 Trillion reconciliation legislation.

Sincerely,

(Your name, contact info, chapter)

(Or, if you'd rather not be contacted, sign your name and ID yourself and say "Contact Mike Fox, Deputy Executive Director, Progressive Democrats of America, mikefox@pdamerica.org")