March 24, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to oppose Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-Calif.) $2.5 trillion “Take Responsibility for Families and Workers Act.”

The bill has hundreds of billions of dollars in spending unrelated to the coronavirus crisis, along with new programs and mandates that will make it far more difficult for the nation to recover from the recession. It shamefully takes advantage of an unprecedented healthcare and economic crisis to put the government into a position to control much of the economy, and contains a laundry list of radical, Socialist proposals.

Every minute that Speaker Pelosi pursues this plan instead of accepting the Senate coronavirus supplemental appropriations bill, which spends 25 percent less and responds directly and solely to the health and economic impact of the coronavirus, is time that more Americans will lose their lives and livelihoods. This is not the time to play games and pursue policies that she knows will never get through the Senate or signed into law.

Sadly, instead of addressing the biggest healthcare and economic crisis in a century, Speaker Pelosi has chosen to introduce and promote the worst big government bill in history. The expensive and unnecessary provisions in her bill include:

$65 billion to bail out union pension funds, a massive giveaway to the Democrats’ largest group of campaign donors;

$15 billion for community development block grants, five times the amount provided annually for the program;

$2 billion for the Economic Development Administration, nearly eight times the annual budget for the agency, which President Trump wants to eliminate; and,

$600 million for the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities at a time when theaters and museums are closed.

There are proposals lifted directly from the Green New Deal, like tax credits for solar panels and forcing airlines to massively increase the use of renewable fuels. It is absurd to tell an industry
that is essentially out of business that when they start up again, they will not be able to take advantage of the lower cost of oil because they are now mandated to use renewable energy.

The bill also includes a $15 national minimum wage, another absurd idea when tens of millions of jobs have been lost in small businesses, hotels, and restaurants across the country. When those businesses reopen, business owners will be forced to hire fewer workers because the salaries will be much higher than they are now. Finally, the bill includes billions of dollars for laptops and other smart devices for people to obtain at the taxpayers’ expense with very loose eligibility guidelines, clearly having nothing to do with the coronavirus.

To put it frankly, Speaker Pelosi’s proposal to expand the size and power of government during this crisis is the most dreadful and shocking display of political partisanship I have ever seen. It is not an exaggeration to say she is endangering lives every second she refuses to reach an agreement on a targeted and temporary spending bill that addresses what truly needs to be done for the American people.

I urge you to reject her bill and instead immediately pass the Senate bill that provides relief from the health and economic impact of the coronavirus.

Sincerely,

Tom Schatz