

March 20, 2026

Senate and House Appropriations Committee Leadership
Chair Susan Collins (R-ME)
Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA)
Chair Tom Cole (R-OK)
Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

Dear Chairs Collins and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

The Bipartisan Policy Center and its advocacy affiliate, BPC Action, work together with leaders from both parties on solutions to lower the everyday cost of living and create more opportunities for Americans. On behalf of BPC and BPC Action, we are pleased to share fiscal year 2027 appropriations priorities with your respective committees.

As you advance bipartisan appropriations, we advocate for the following funding priorities, detailed in BPC Action's attached letters to appropriations subcommittees:

- Prioritizing funding for programs that strengthen American students, families, and workers, like Title I and IDEA, childcare and preschool, Pell grants, and job training programs
- Investing in a health care system that innovates, prevents chronic disease, promotes public and behavioral health, and supports health care workers, older adults, and caregivers
- Supporting families and strengthening communities by boosting rental assistance and reducing the cost of housing, combating homelessness, and maintaining strong levels of infrastructure investment
- Strengthening U.S. energy and agricultural innovation, including critical minerals and domestic supply chains, AI management tools, research supporting next generation technology development, carbon dioxide removal initiatives, federal loan programs, and federal permitting modernization.
- Funding election security to help states stabilize staffing, support training, and relieve operational stressors ahead of the 2026 midterms
- Guiding the continued modernization of Congress, including the Congressional Research Service, Legislative Counsel, and congressional committees

It is achievable to both prudently invest in the priorities outlined above while also improving government efficiency, centering fiscal responsibility, and lowering costs for households. To achieve this balance in FY27, BPC recommends:

- **Prioritizing investments that grow the economy and help Americans thrive.** Growing the economic pie makes the national debt more manageable and unlocks new resources for both the government and the private sector. Attention to helping workers thrive serves the goal of

economic growth and ensures government is fostering the conditions for families to attain economic security and pursue opportunities.

- **Identifying efficiencies that reduce waste and deliver better program outcomes.** Efforts to reduce duplication, improper payments, fraud, and other inefficiencies can serve multiple worthy goals, including more responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars and cost savings that allow programs to better deploy resources where they are needed.
- **Making the hard choices required to address the nation’s long-term fiscal outlook.** Discretionary spending accounts for only about one quarter of total federal spending, a share that continues to be squeezed by growing mandatory programs and net interest costs. The enormous size and growth of the national debt will require an “all of government” approach to correcting our fiscal course. At the very least, Congress should ensure FY27 discretionary spending grows no faster than inflation. Soon, lawmakers will face difficult choices to reduce [spending](#) and increase [revenue](#). Our fiscal position also requires putting [Social Security](#) on a sustainable path well in advance of the trust fund’s expected insolvency in 2032, curbing [health](#) cost growth, and implementing closer [oversight](#) of discretionary spending programs to contain overall spending growth while ensuring key public needs are met.
- **Addressing the rising cost of living through practical, bipartisan solutions.** Increasing prosperity requires tackling the major cost pressures facing American households: expanding housing supply and lowering barriers to development; reducing health care costs through greater price transparency and strengthened competition; energy policies that help ensure reliable, affordable, clean supplies of energy; and higher-education pathways that improve value and reduce financial burdens for students. Confronting these drivers of household costs not only strengthens Americans’ economic security but also reinforces a healthier, more resilient economy.
- **Enhancing the clarity and specificity of the laws governing the appropriation and expenditure of funds.** Congress's intent is best and most fully carried out when Congress expresses its will in legislative text, and in language that is clear and specific. Only by doing so can Congress ensure it retains and exercises its full Constitutional grant of authority over the power of the purse.

BPC and BPC Action stand ready to support Congress as you confront difficult economic and budgetary decisions during the appropriations process. At the same time, we will continue working with the authorizing committees as they design, direct, and oversee the federal government’s critical work, given that strong authorizing and appropriating processes are both vital to fulfilling Congress’s constitutional responsibilities.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the American people.

Sincerely,



Margaret Spellings
President and CEO, Bipartisan Policy Center



Michele Stockwell
President, Bipartisan Policy Center Action

