

September 5, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to ask you to oppose any House FY 2018 appropriations bills or packages which include harmful policy riders.

Appropriations bills continue to be misused to undermine essential safeguards through poison pill “policy riders” – provisions that address extraneous and unpopular policy issues. Slipping unrelated and damaging issues into must-pass appropriations bills as a means to win approval is a dangerous strategy for the public.

Harmful policy riders are measures that the public opposes and would be unpopular to move as standalone legislation. The American people support policies to restrain Wall Street abuses and ensure safe and healthy food and products, to protect our air, land, water and wildlife, to ensure safe and fair workplaces, to prevent consumer rip-offs and corporate wrongdoing, to protect our campaign finance and election systems, to provide access to justice and fair housing, to protect civil rights, and to ensure continued access to vital health care services including reproductive health care.

Contentious poison pill riders are intended to advance the priorities of special interest donors, supporters and should not be included in funding bills. Highlighting just a small portion of the proposed egregious riders, the proposed house bills and associated proposed amendments to the appropriations package include:

- Funding for a controversial wall on the Mexican border, money that should instead go to disaster efforts and to help rebuild damaged communities.
- A provision to block ongoing and potentially life-saving research involving fetal tissue.
- A policy blocking patients from accessing care at Planned Parenthood health centers.
- A provision to prohibit the use of any funds in the bill from being used to “implement, administer, enforce, or further” provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- Denial of funding for the 2020 decennial census unless questions are included regarding a respondent’s U.S. citizenship and immigration status.
- An amendment that stops the Mueller investigation after 180 days and limits the scope of the investigation.
- A provision that seeks to restructure the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), which would hinder the Bureau’s mission to protect consumers’ financial interests, and a provision to prevent the CFPB from banning forced arbitration clauses in consumer contracts that currently allow corporations to rip off consumers with impunity.
- An amendment that splits the 9th Circuit Court, which is one of the more progressive circuits in the country.
- A provision that would prevent the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from finalizing new rules to require public corporations to disclose their political spending to shareholders.
- A provision that would allow for the withdrawal of the Clean Water Rule, which would protect the drinking water of 117 million people, without following the proper procedures required under the Administrative Procedure Act of 1946.
- A policy that delays the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) latest health standards for ground-level ozone smog pollution for ten years, preventing Americans from even having the right to know if the air they breathe is unhealthy for ten years and severely delaying cleanup steps.
- Amendments that would strip protections for animals currently under the Endangered Species Act, undermining the scientific basis of those decisions.
- Elimination of funding for private enforcement of federal fair housing laws while private enforcement is the primary way that federal fair housing laws are enforced.
- A provision that would prevent the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from implementing its Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule, which helps states and communities better understand how to fulfill its federal fair housing obligations required by law. (At the time in which this letter was sent this amendment was withdrawn.)
- An amendment that would halt the enforcement of the Department of Labor’s final fiduciary rule that

- would ensure financial advisors work in their clients' best interests instead of lining their pockets.
- A policy that would halt the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) final rule on silica, which causes renal disease, silicosis, lung cancer, and other terrible illnesses in workers exposed to the toxic dust.
- A provision that would prohibit the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from implementing a rule to collect pay data that could show pay discrimination in a variety of sectors and employers.
- A rider to stop the Department of Education from enforcing the Gainful Employment rule, which would save students and tax payers millions of dollars in student loans.
- A provision that would undermine protections for the collective bargaining rights of workers at tribal-owned enterprises.
- Various provisions that would prevent the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) from enforcing basic labor law protections.
- An amendment that would prohibit the Consumer Product Safety Commission from using funds to finalize their proposed rule from November 2016 to limit carbon monoxide emissions from portable generators.
- A policy rider to block the Department of Justice from entering into agreements with corporate wrongdoers, such as environmental polluters, that require the corporate wrongdoer to make payments to third-party actors as part of a settlement agreement with the federal government.

We also urge Members of Congress to support increasing the spending caps to fund pivotal programs for the American people via the budget while opposing flawed funding proposals that include poison pill policy riders like those listed above and the many others proposed for inclusion.

Sincerely,

National Groups

9to5, National Association of Working Women  
 Action on Smoking and Health  
 AFL-CIO  
 AFSCME  
 Alaska Wilderness League  
 Alliance for Retired Americans  
 American Association for Justice  
 American Bird Conservancy  
 Americans for Financial Reform  
 Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization  
 Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
 Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
 Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
 Black Women's Health Imperative  
 Carmelite NGO  
 Catholics for Choice  
 Center for Biological Diversity  
 Center for Justice & Democracy  
 Center for Progressive Reform  
 Center for Science in the Public Interest  
 Clean Water Action  
 Coalition on Human Needs  
 Common Cause  
 Communications Workers of America (CWA)  
 Consumer Action  
 Corporate Accountability International

Daily Kos  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Democracy 21  
Earthjustice  
Earthworks  
Economic Policy Institute Policy Center  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environment America  
Family Equality Council  
Free Press Action Fund  
Friends of the Earth  
Government Accountability Project  
GreenLatinos  
Grounded Solutions Network  
Hip Hop Caucus  
Hispanic Federation  
Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings  
ICAST (International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology)  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Interfaith Power & Light  
Jewish Women International  
Just Foreign Policy  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
League of Conservation Voters  
Main Street Alliance  
NAACP  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Abortion Federation  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of Consumer Advocates  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Council for Occupational Safety and Health  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New America's Open Technology Institute  
New Progressive Alliance

Newtown Action Alliance  
PAI  
People For the American Way  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
PLACE  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
PolicyLink  
Population Connection Action Fund  
Population Institute  
Power Shift Network  
Progressive Congress Action Fund  
Public Citizen  
Public Knowledge  
Rachel Carson Council  
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need  
Safe Climate Campaign  
Service Employees International Union  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)  
Sierra Club  
SiX Action  
Stand Up America  
States United to Prevent Gun Violence  
The Arc of the United States  
The Bright Lines Project  
The Center for Reproductive Rights  
The Impact Fund  
The Wilderness Society  
U.S. PIRG  
UnidosUS (formerly National Council of La Raza)  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Church of Christ, OC Inc.  
United Steelworkers  
Voces Verdes  
Voices for Progress  
Woodstock Institute  
Workplace Fairness  
Young Invincibles

#### State Groups

AIDS Alabama, Inc.  
Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey  
Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness  
Arizona Housing Alliance  
CALPIRG  
CASA of Oregon  
Church Women United in New York State  
ConnPIRG  
COPIRG  
Earth Action, Inc.  
Empower Missouri  
Equality California  
Florida Alliance for Consumer Protection  
Florida PIRG

Georgia PIRG  
Habitat for Humanity Virginia  
Housing Action Illinois  
Housing Community Development Network of NJ  
HousingWorks RI  
Illinois PIRG  
Indiana PIRG  
Iowa PIRG  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
Maryland PIRG  
Massachusetts Consumers Council  
MASSPIRG  
Monarch Housing Associates  
Montana Environmental Information Center  
MontPIRG  
MoPIRG  
NCPIRG  
New Jersey Association on Correction  
New Jim Crow Movement – California & Florida  
NHPIRG  
NJPIRG  
NMPIRG  
Ohio CDC Association  
Ohio PIRG  
Oregon PIRG (OSPIRG)  
PennPIRG  
PeterCares House  
PIRG in Michigan (PIRGIM)  
Public Justice Center  
RIPIRG  
TexPIRG  
The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado  
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition  
Virginia Housing Alliance  
Washington Low Income Housing Alliance  
WASHPIRG  
WISPIRG

#### Local Groups

AFGE Council 238  
Alfred E Smirh Resident Association, New York, NY  
Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc. DBA Matthew's Place, Atlanta, GA  
Central New York Citizens in Action, Inc., Utica, NY  
Clarksburg-Harrison Regional Housing Authority, Harrison County, WV  
Family Emergency Shelter Coalition (FESCO), Hayward, Alameda County, CA  
Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, Kansas City, MO  
Harrington Investments, Inc., Napa, CA  
Homeless Solutions, Inc., Morris County, NJ  
Homestead Affordable Housing, Inc., Holton, KS  
Housing Authority of the City of Columbia, MO  
Lake County Crisis Center, Lake County, OR  
Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County, PA  
Plymouth Housing Group, Seattle, WA

ROSE Community Development, Portland, OR  
Seattle Human Services Coalition, Seattle, WA  
Sitka Community Land Trust, Sitka, AK  
South Florida Community Development Coalition, Miami-Dade, FL  
South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice  
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now  
Springfield Housing Authority, Springfield, IL  
The Architects Collective, Los Angeles, CA  
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice & Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition, Toledo, OH  
YWCA-GCR, Inc., New York, NY  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Chicago, IL