

Holding Power Accountable

Common Cause Urges Congress to Include Seven Principles in the Next Government Funding Bill

March 4, 2025

Dear Member of Congress:

The first month-plus of this Administration has brought chaos, confusion, and calamity to all Americans who rely on critical government services and functional federal agencies to protect and serve us all. However, the current Administration has continued to flout the rule of law, ignore Congress' power of the purse, and undermine court decisions, all of which threaten our health, safety, and livelihoods. On behalf of Common Cause's more than 1.5 million members, we strongly urge Congress to assert its Article I authority as a co-equal branch of government and push back against the extremely damaging actions of the current Administration.

As you continue deliberations on a bill to fund the government beyond March 14th, Congress must fully use its leverage in negotiations with the White House. We urge you to condition your support for funding the government on specific criteria and principles, which include:

- Respecting, following, and enforcing the rule of law
- Abiding by court decisions and orders without delay
- Protecting an independent judiciary and not calling for and/or supporting impeachment of judges over disagreements with rulings made by courts
- Spending all funding previously appropriated by Congress and not illegally impounding it
- Ensuring all members of the Executive Branch comply with subpoenas, investigations, document requests, and appearances at hearings as part of Congress's oversight responsibility
- Creating a bi-partisan committee to oversee the work of DOGE
- Upholding the social safety net and not making cuts to programs that would jeopardize the health and economic stability of our communities

If one administration ignores these principles, it creates a dangerous precedent and a slippery slope for future ones to further ignore them. It is therefore in Congress's interest to assert itself to defend the separation of powers and our system of checks and balances that are a key tenet of the Constitution.

Congress must also do whatever is necessary to protect our independent judicial branch. When courts make rulings that defend and uphold the rule of law, it is entirely inappropriate for members of the administration to indiscriminately call for impeachment when they disagree with the merits of the decision. As one senior Senate Republican [recently noted](#), instead of impeachment, "The best recourse for somebody who is unhappy with what a judge decides is to appeal what that judge decides."

Additionally, Congress must continue to play a critical role not only in asserting its oversight authority, but also in ensuring that funds previously appropriated are spent in the way in which they intended when passed into law. Ceding Congress's power to the Executive Branch will only embolden future administrations to continue to ignore Congress's constitutional authorities. We therefore urge that any government funding bill must include mechanisms for asserting Congress's role as a co-equal branch of government working for "we the people."

Sincerely,

Virginia Kase Solomón
President and CEO
Common Cause

