

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Yarmuth, Lee, Lujan Grisham, Moulton, Higgins, Wasserman Schultz, Khanna, Jayapal, Jackson Lee, and Schakowsky

Increase Austerity-Level Defense and Non-Defense Funding Caps

1. At the end of Title V, add the following:

“POLICY STATEMENT ON DEFENSE AND NON-DEFENSE FUNDING INCREASES.

(a) FINDINGS. — The House finds the following:

(1) The current spending limits set by the Budget Control Act of 2011 are too low, for both defense and non-defense funding. Defense and non-defense investments must be at appropriate levels to protect both national security and economic security. The non-defense discretionary spending limit for 2018 is \$2 billion less than it was in 2016, in nominal terms, representing a significant cut to purchasing power. If the inflation rate is what the Congressional Budget Office projects, the 2018 cap represents a reduction of nearly \$30 billion compared with 2016.

(2) The Budget Control Act of 2011 is based on parity for defense and non-defense spending, setting up separate caps for both and instituting a “firewall” to prevent reductions in one category because of increases in the other.

(3) Bipartisan agreement has provided a solution to the austerity-level caps before, and can be used again to change these arbitrary spending caps to prevent the harsh impact of massive, irresponsible cuts to important federal programs.

(4) Congress must begin discussions and negotiations immediately, to raise the caps to appropriate levels, and maintain parity between defense and non-defense.

(b) POLICY ON DEFENSE AND NON-DEFENSE FUNDING INCREASES. — It is the policy of this resolution that Congress should enact increases to the current defense and non-defense spending limits – in equal amounts – without using reductions in one category to pay for increases in the other.”

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution supports robust funding for both defense and non-defense investments. Increases from the current inadequate limits required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 must be provided in equal amounts, as they have been in the past, through bipartisan agreement. Austerity-level spending caps threaten the continued operations of many vital government functions. Congress must begin negotiations to raise the limits in a reasonable manner, as soon as possible.