May 8, 2013

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 807, the misnamed Full Faith and Credit Act. This bill is the latest effort to hold the debt ceiling hostage while jeopardizing job growth, the economy, and the full faith and credit of the United States. Its impact on the economy, working families, vulnerable Americans, veterans and military families, seniors and children would be devastating.

H.R. 807 would establish an unprecedented and dangerous prioritization of government expenditures that have already been approved by Congress in the event the debt ceiling is exceeded. Federal funding for nearly all federal programs and services would be subject to constant renegotiation, delays and uncertainty. This scenario seems all too familiar, as this bill sets the stage for a dangerous battle on the debt ceiling similar to what occurred in August 2011 when the stock market plummeted, Standard and Poor's downgraded the nation's credit rating for the first time ever, and we saw the worst month for job loss since our fragile economic recovery began. We cannot risk a further politically motivated hit on the economy nor further economic instability that this legislation would cause.

Instead of austerity and slashing of government services, the American people deserve financial stability. Instead of uncertainty and political gamesmanship, we need a stable economic environment that fosters job growth and sound investments in programs that will expand the economy. Yet, H.R. 807 would further exacerbate financial instability and threaten the funding for the military, veterans, public health services, food stamps, education, Head Start, housing vouchers, transportation, infrastructure and more. The impact would slow growth, eliminate jobs, increase layoffs and furloughs, and threaten the many vital public services Americans depend upon.

We urge you to reject H.R. 807 and focus on a sustainable solution to improving our economy by promoting job growth, and making all Americans pay their fair share. This bill is not the solution, it’s part of the problem. Please oppose H.R. 807.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Charles M. Loveless  
Director of Federal Government Affairs

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