October 2, 2017

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Co-Chair,  
Congressional Progressive Caucus  
1511 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Pocan  
Co-Chair,  
Congressional Progressive Caucus  
1421 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I strongly endorse the alternative budget resolution proposed by the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC). The People’s Budget represents the true needs of our nation and working families; a federal budget that creates better economic opportunities. The People’s Budget benefits all Americans, not just the wealthy few. It invests in American jobs, health care, education, infrastructure, safety, and public services and restores fairness to our tax system.

The budget decisions made by Congress each year are vital to ensuring that the economy is strong and that our communities are safe and prosperous. Unfortunately, this year’s majority budget promotes the same misguided, inequitable priorities as the budget proposed by President Trump. The Republican budget sets woefully inadequate spending levels for critical public services, and slashes $5.8 trillion over 10 years from non-defense discretionary programs and critical entitlement programs. It trades off vital human needs to significantly boost defense spending and provide massive tax giveaways to wealthy individuals and large corporations.

The People’s Budget sets a better course by investing in public services that all Americans rely on, preserving and improving the Affordable Care Act, increasing education investments from the cradle through college, and investing $2 trillion in needed energy, water, and transportation infrastructure. This budget also calls for closing loopholes and eliminating tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations to ensure they pay their fair share. The CPC budget further calls for better pay, benefits and a strong voice in the workplace for American workers. It also repeals the unfair 40 percent tax on employer-sponsored high cost health benefits for workers. The CPC budget preserves and strengthens programs like Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, housing assistance, employment services and job training that ensure basic living standards and offer opportunities for millions of Americans to move forward.

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The budget proposed by the CPC embraces American families, promotes job growth and shared economic prosperity. I strongly urge support for The People’s Budget.

Sincerely,

Scott Frey
Director of Federal Government Affairs

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