# In The Face Of Imminent Default, Congressional Republicans Continue A History Of Partisan Flip-Flopping On Debt Ceiling Increase

**Summary:** As the United States <u>breached</u> its debt limit, threatening imminent default, top Republicans have <u>threatened</u> to leverage defaulting on the national debt to secure their demands, such as <u>cutting entitlement programs</u> and altering <u>safety net programs like SNAP</u>. Not only would defaulting on the national debt "<u>completely undermine the economy</u>," but could also spark a "<u>global financial crisis</u>" and result in many Americans "<u>losing crucial federal benefits</u>."

Over the course of the Trump administration, Congress passed increases to the debt limit three times "without much fuss." In the face of those votes, Republican senators and representatives warned about the disastrous economic consequences of defaulting on the national debt. However, a Washington Post review of all the debt ceiling votes demonstrated that "GOP votes fall off a cliff" when there's a Democrat in the White House. The report found that under a Republican administration, an average of 65% of House Republicans and 74% of Senate Republicans voted in favor of adjusting or suspending the debt ceiling, but those numbers declined to 24% and 20%, respectively, under Democratic administrations.

Some of these Republican members of Congress who have continued flip-flopping on the MAGA default issue include:

- Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), who <u>voted</u> to suspend the debt limit in 2019, admitted that "<u>if we don't increase the debt limit we're going to shut down the government,</u>" but insisted on voting <u>against raising the debt ceiling in 2021.</u> in 2021.
- Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) hailed the 2019 Bipartisan Budget Agreement as "the right deal because it ensures the United States maintains its full faith and credit," but suggested "Democrats should act alone to lift the debt ceiling" in 2021 under Democratic President Biden.
- Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) admitted in 2017 that "<u>raising the debt ceiling and</u> securing the U.S. border was a 'good combination,'" but under President Biden he did "'not support raising the debt limit" and called the 2021 bipartisan deal a "mistake."
- Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) has "routinely supported more government borrowing when republicans held the White House," having supported raising the debt limit in 2017 under Trump, but opposed increasing it in October 2021 under the Biden presidency.
- Under President Trump, Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) helped "temporarily suspend the
  debt limit," adding that he "support[s] this deal and [is] grateful to see it pass," but in
  2021 and 2023, he opposed raising the debt ceiling.
- In July 2019, Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) admitted that raising the debt limit "avoid[ed] the horrific consequences of defaulting on our national debt, which would lead to extreme economic chaos," yet he stated that Republicans "would not support raising the debt limit" in 2021 under President Biden.

- Even though in 2017 Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) said that America making good on its debts "is a legal and moral obligation," he called out Democratic leadership in 2021 for "lack[ing] the ability to make sound fiscal policy" in announcing his opposition to a debt limit agreement.
- Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL) voted for the 2018 Bipartisan Budget Act to <u>"aver[t] a government shutdown</u>," which <u>"protects the economy from debt default</u>," but <u>slammed</u> Democratic leadership for raising the debt limit in 2021.
- In 2018, Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI) touted that "voting in favor of this budget kept the government open," and slammed House colleagues who wanted to "once again shut down the government," but later in 2021 said Democrats need to "choose between the Biden agenda, and continuing to raise the debt limit in the future."

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As Fear Grows That "Partisan Brinksmanship" Could Cause Nation To Default On Its Debt, Republicans Are Threatening To Not Sign Off On Raising The Debt Limit, Despite Having Suspended The Debt Ceiling "Three Times Without Much Fuss" Under The Trump Administration.

In January 2023, The U.S. Hit The Debt Ceiling, Forcing Treasury
Secretary Janet Yellen To Take "Extraordinary Measures," Amid Fears
That Growing The "Partisan Brinksmanship" Could Cause The Nation
To Default On Its Debt.

After The U.S. Treasury Reached Its Debt Limit In Mid-January 2023, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Announced The Agency Would Begin Taking "Extraordinary Measures" To Maintain Funding, "Behind-The-Scenes Accounting Maneuvers That The Treasury Department Can Take To Give Congress Time To Increase Or Suspend The Limit Before The Us Has To Default On Its Debts." "In a letter to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Thursday, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen announced that the agency will start taking 'extraordinary measures' now that the US has reached its \$31.4 trillion debt limit. But the nation is not yet at the debt ceiling crisis point that could tank the financial markets, suspend Social Security payments to senior citizens, hurt the economy and cause other chaos. That's what the so-called extraordinary measures are designed to temporarily avoid. And while they might sound dire, they are mainly behind-the-scenes accounting maneuvers that the Treasury Department can take to give Congress time to increase or suspend the limit before the US has to default on its debts." [CNN, 01/19/23]

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Said The Measures Will Last Through June 5 And Urged Congress "'To Act Promptly To Protect The Full Faith And Credit Of The United States." "She said the measures would last through June 5. This buys Congress some time – but how long the extraordinary measures can last is subject to 'considerable uncertainty,' she wrote, stressing that it's a challenge to forecast how many financial obligations the federal government must pay and how much revenue it will take in months into the future. 'I respectfully urge Congress to act promptly to protect the full faith and credit of the United States,' she wrote." [CNN, 01/19/23]

Some House Republicans, Who Hold "Enormous Sway" Due To The Party's Slim Majority, "Have Demanded That Lifting The Borrowing Cap Be Tied To Spending Reductions." "The battle lines for the high-stakes fight have already been set. Hardline Republicans, who have enormous sway in the House because of the party's slim majority, have demanded that lifting the borrowing cap be tied to spending reductions. The White House countered that it will not offer any concessions or negotiate on raising the debt ceiling." [CNN, 01/19/23]

"Fears Are Growing That The Partisan Brinksmanship" Could Cause The Nation To Default On Its Debt "For The First Time Ever." "And with the solution to the debt ceiling drama squarely in lawmakers' hands, fears are growing that the partisan brinksmanship could

result in the nation defaulting on its debt for the first time ever – or coming dangerously close to doing so." [CNN,  $\frac{01/19/23}{2}$ ]

Republicans, Who Are Currently Threatening To Not Sign Off On Raising The Debt Limit, Suspended The Debt Ceiling "Three Times Without Much Fuss" Under The Trump Administration Leading To Trillions In Additional Debt, But When There's A Democrat In The White House, Republican "Votes Fall Off A Cliff."

In The Face Of Another Debate Over Increasing The Debt Limit Under A Democratic President, Republicans Have Again Threatened To Not Sign Off On A Debt Limit Increase.

"Nothing makes Republicans laser focus on the debt ceiling like the election of a Democratic president. The upcoming fight over the debt limit represents the 21st time Congress has been called upon to raise or suspend the debt ceiling during the 21st century. In six of those instances, the situation has pitted a Democratic president against a Congress under at least partial GOP control. And it looks like this will be the third time out of six that we'll see a knockdown, drag-out fight over the matter, with Republicans demanding spending cuts and threatening not to sign off." [The Washington Post, 01/20/23]

Conversely, Under The Trump Administration "The Debt Ceiling Was Suspended Three Times Without Much Fuss" Despite The National Debt "Soar[ing]." "It's a stark contrast to how this is handled in other circumstances. While Republicans are generally less likely to vote for adjusting the debt ceiling than Democrats, the debt ceiling was suspended three times without much fuss during the Donald Trump administration, even as the national debt continued to soar." [The Washington Post, 01/20/23]

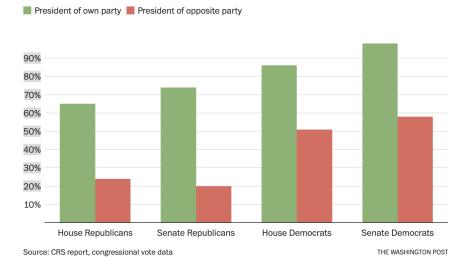
During The Trump Administration, Congress Suspended The Debt Limit In 2017, 2018, And 2019, Which Caused The National Debt To "Swell By Almost \$8 Trillion." "The limit was suspended in 2017, 2018 and 2019, and reset at a higher level again after each freeze before being raised in 2021, according to the Congressional Research Service — allowing the nation's red ink to swell by almost \$8 trillion under Trump." [Bloomberg, 01/19/23]

A Washington Post Review Of All Debt Ceiling Votes Demonstrated That "GOP Votes Fall Off A Cliff" When There's A Democrat In The White House. "A review of all the debt ceiling votes this century shows how GOP votes fall off a cliff when there's a Democrat in the White House. In the 10 debt ceiling votes under a Republican administration, an average of 65 percent of House Republicans and 74 percent of Senate Republicans voted in favor of adjusting or suspending it. But in Democratic administrations, those numbers decline to 24 percent and 20 percent, respectively." [The Washington Post, 01/20/23]

Under A Republican Administration, An Average Of 65 Percent Of House Republicans And 74 Percent Of Senate Republicans Voted In Favor Of Adjusting Or Suspending The Debt Ceiling, But Those Numbers Declined To 24 Percent And 20 Percent, Respectively, Under Democratic Administrations:

#### Votes for lifting debt ceiling, compared to control of White House

The percentage of Republicans and Democrats in each chamber that voted in favor of a debt ceiling adjustment, when the White House was controlled by their own party versus the opposite party (21st century votes)



[The Washington Post, 01/20/23]

Throughout The Trump Administration, Several Republican Senators Voted To Increase The Debt Ceiling, But Flip-Flopped On Their Decision When A Democrat Was In Office

Despite Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Voting To Suspend The Debt Limit In 2019, Arguing "It's The Right Deal Because It Ensures The United States Maintains Its Full Faith And Credit," He Suggested "Democrats Should Act Alone To Lift The Debt Ceiling" In 2021 Under Democratic President Biden.

In 2019, Senator Mitch McConnell Voted To Suspend The Debt Limit, Arguing "It's The Right Deal Because It Ensures The United States Maintains Its Full Faith And Credit" And In 2017 Insisted "There Is Zero Chance — No Chance — We Won't Raise The Debt Ceiling."

July 31, 2019: Sen. McConnell Called The Bill "A Deal That Every One Of My Colleagues Should Support When We Vote On It In The Near Future," Arguing "It's The Right Deal Because It Ensures The United States Maintains Its Full Faith And Credit." "[T]his is a deal that every one of my colleagues should support when we vote on it in the near future. This government funding agreement is the right deal for our national defense. It's the right deal because it ensures the United States maintains its full faith and credit. It's the right deal because

it brings predictability and stability through 2020 and moves toward restoring regular appropriations." [Senator Mitch McConnell, 07/31/19]

07.31.19

#### 'It's The Right Thing To Do'

The Bipartisan Budget Agreement Will Provide Stability And Predictability For Our Military, 'Ensure Veterans Have Timely Access' To Care And Benefits And 'Eliminates The Economic Risk' Surrounding The Debt Ceiling

[Senator Mitch McConnell, <u>07/31/19</u>]

- August 1, 2019: Sen. McConnell Voted For H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit." [The U.S. Senate, 08/01/19]
- Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021. [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

August 21, 2017: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell Insisted "There Is Zero Chance — No Chance — We Won't Raise The Debt Ceiling. No Chance." "Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Monday insisted the U.S. government will raise the debt ceiling and avoid defaulting on its debt. 'There is zero chance — no chance — we won't raise the debt ceiling. No chance,' McConnell said at an event in Kentucky with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. 'America's not going to default. And we'll get the job done in conjunction with the secretary of the Treasury." [CNBC, 08/21/17]

• **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed 01/24/23]

#### But In 2021, Under A Democratic President Biden, McConnell Suggested "Democrats Should Act Alone To Lift The Debt Ceiling."

July 21, 2021: Sen. McConnell Suggested "Democrats Should Act Alone To Lift The Debt Ceiling," Revealing That He Can't "'Imagine There Will Be A Single Republican Voting To Raise The Debt Ceiling." "Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said Republicans won't support a debt limit hike, drawing fierce backlash from Democrats who accused him of plotting to sabotage the economy. The Kentucky Republican suggested that Democrats should act alone to lift the debt ceiling, a move that experts say is necessary later this year to avert a default that could tank the U.S. and global economy. 'I can't imagine there will be a single Republican voting to raise the debt ceiling after what we've been experiencing,' McConnell told Punchbowl News in an interview published Wednesday morning." [NBC News, 07/21/21]

• Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

In July 2019, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) Voted To Suspend The Debt Limit, Admitting That "'If We Don't Increase The Debt Limit We're Going To Shut Down Government," But Insisted On Voting "'Against The Raise Of The Debt Ceiling" In 2021.

## In July 2019, Senator Chuck Grassley Voted To Suspend The Debt Limit, Admitting That "'If We Don't Increase The Debt Limit We're Going To Shut Down Government.'"

July 2019: Senator Grassley Admitted That "'If We Don't Increase The Debt Limit We're Going To Shut Down Government," And That He's Going To Vote To Increase The Debt Limit To "'Keep The Government Functioning." "'I do not like the spending measures, but connected with it is an increase in the debt limit,' Grassley said. 'If we don't increase the debt limit we're going to shut down government.' [...] 'I'm going to keep the government functioning because the government is a service to the American people, and you can't be a service to the American people if you don't function,' the Iowa Republican told reporters." [The Gazette, 07/31/19]

- August 1, 2019: Sen. Grassley Voted For H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act Of 2019, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit." [The U.S. Senate, 08/01/19]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

#### But In September 2021 Under Democratic President Biden, Grassley Insisted On Voting "Against The Raise Of The Debt Ceiling."

September 29, 2021: After Blocking A Bill That Would Have Increased The Federal Debt Ceiling, Sen. Grassley Told Reporters That The Vote "Should Not Have Been A Surprise," Given That Senate Republicans Were Always Planning To "'Vote Against The Raise Of The Debt Ceiling." "On Monday, Senate Republicans blocked a bill that would have kept funding the federal government into early December and would have increased the federal debt ceiling — the amount of money the U.S. government can borrow to pay its bills. Grassley, a Republican who recently announced he will run for reelection in 2022, said on call with reporters Wednesday that his party has consistently told Democrats where they stand and that 'Monday's vote should not have been a surprise.' 'We've said pretty plainly for months we will not abet the tax and spending spree, and that we're going to vote against the raise of the debt ceiling,' he said." [Des Moines Register, 09/29/21]

• **Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021.** [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Under The Trump Presidency, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) Admitted That "Raising The Debt Ceiling And Securing The U.S. Border Was A 'Good Combination,'" But Under President Biden, He Did "'Not Support Raising The Debt Limit'" And Called The Bipartisan Deal A "'Mistake."

### In August 2017, Senator Lindsey Graham Admitted That "Raising The Debt Ceiling And Securing The U.S. Border Was A 'Good Combination."

August 24, 2017: Sen. Graham Admitted That "Raising The Debt Ceiling And Securing The U.S. Border Was A 'Good Combination.'" "Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said raising the debt ceiling and securing the U.S. border was a 'good combination' and suggested Republicans force Democrats into difficult votes over the borrowing limit." [AP News, 08/24/17]

- September 7, 2017: Sen. Graham Voted For H.R. 601, Which Raised The Debt Limit And Keep The Government Funded Until December. [The U.S. Senate, 09/07/17]
- Then-President Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021. In Office From 2017 To 2021. [The White House, accessed 01/24/23]

### But In 2021, Under President Biden, Sen. Graham Did "'Not Support Raising The Debt Limit" And Called A Bipartisan Deal A "'Mistake."

October 6, 2021: Sen. Graham Announced He Did "Not Support Raising The Debt Limit," Adding That "'If Democrats Want To Raise The Debt Ceiling They Can Use The Reconciliation Process." "Graham, the top Republican on the Budget Committee, is the first Senate Republican to speak out against the tentative deal that is still being worked out by Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.). 'I do not support the Democrats' reconciliation package and I do not support raising the debt limit to make that level of spending possible. If Democrats want to raise the debt ceiling they can use the reconciliation process,' Graham said in a statement. A spokesperson for Graham confirmed that he was opposed to a short-term debt hike to December." [The Hill, 10/06/21]

 Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

December 9, 2021: A Few Months Later, Graham Attacked Republican Congressional Leaders For Making A Deal With Democrats To Raise The Debt Ceiling, The Deal "Is A Mistake." "Sen. Lindsey Graham on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on GOP congressional leaders, saying at a closed-door party lunch that they'd put Republicans in a position to get 'shot in the back' over a deal with Democrats to raise the debt ceiling, The Hill reported. [...] 'I think this is a mistake, but we'll see what happens,' Graham told reporters after the lunch, according to The Hill. 'We've been telling our Republican base for four months, '[Democrats] are spending money by themselves, they should raise the debt ceiling by themselves through reconciliation." [Business Insider, 12/09/21]

Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) Has "Routinely Supported More Government Borrowing When Republicans Held The White House," Having Supported Raising The Debt Limit In 2017 Under Trump But Opposed Increasing It In 2021 Under Biden.

In September 2017, Under President Trump, Senator Cornyn Told Reporters "It's Imperative That We Get That Supplemental Passed" To Raise The Debt Limit,

In September 2017, Sen. John Cornyn Told Reporters "'It's Imperative That We Get That Supplemental Passed." "Cornyn said Congress has no choice but to raise the debt ceiling now given the need for help in his home state, the escalating costs and the government's diminishing coffers. 'It's imperative that we get that supplemental passed,' Cornyn told reporters." [The Hill, 09/06/17]

- September 7, 2017: Sen. Cornyn Voted For H.R. 601, Which Raised The Debt Limit And Kept The Government Funded Until Early December 2017. [The U.S. Senate, 09/07/17]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

Cornyn Has "Routinely Supported More Government Borrowing When Republicans Held The White House," Yet Opposed The October 2021 Debt Limit Increase While Echoing That Democratic Members Would "Have To Raise The Debt Ceiling On [Their] Own."

Cornyn Has "Routinely Supported More Government Borrowing When Republicans Held The White House," Having Voted In Favor Of Raising The Ceiling In "2003, 2004, 2006, 2011 And 2015." "And while they voted against Thursday's increase, Cruz and Cornyn have routinely supported more government borrowing when Republicans held the White House. Cornyn opposed the debt limit adopted by the Senate in 2013 but voted in favor of Congress raising the ceiling in 2003, 2004, 2006, 2011 and 2015." [The Texas Tribune, 10/08/21]

October 8, 2021: In A Press Release, Cornyn Opposed Increasing The Debt Limit, Echoing Senator McConnell's Call That Democratic Members Would "Have To Raise The Debt Ceiling On [Their] Own." "Today U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) released the following statement after voting against raising the debt ceiling, which would allow for an additional \$480 billion in borrowing as Senate Democrats attempt to pass a reckless, tax-and-spend social welfare bill: 'Last July, Senator McConnell told our Democratic colleagues that as long as you're going to continue to spend money in a purely partisan way, you're going to have to raise the debt ceiling on your own. Of course, they waited until the very last moment to do it." [U.S. Senator John Cornyn, 10/08/21]

 Press Release: Cornyn Votes Against Raising Debt Ceiling for Democrats' Reckless Spending. [U.S. Senator John Cornyn, <u>10/08/21</u>] • Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Under President Trump, Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) Helped "Temporarily Suspend The Debt Limit," Adding That He "Support[s] This Deal And [ls] Grateful To See It Pass," But In 2021 And 2023, He Opposed Raising The Debt Ceiling Under President Biden.

In 2019, Under President Trump, Sen. Kevin Cramer Helped Pass The Bipartisan Budget Agreement Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit," Adding That He "Support[s] This Deal And [ls] Grateful To See It Pass."

August 1, 2018: Sen. Cramer Voted To Pass The Bipartisan Budget Agreement, Saying He "Support[s] This Deal And [Is] Grateful To See It Pass" And That It "Delivers A Win For All Sides." "U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND) issued the following statement on the U.S. Senate passing the bipartisan budget agreement struck between President Donald Trump and leaders of Congress: 'I support this deal and am grateful to see it pass. This modest agreement strengthens our military, helps our farmers, and delivers a win for all sides. President Trump and Congressional leaders deserve accolades for striking this deal, especially Speaker Pelosi, who convinced her increasingly-radical caucus to support this rather conservative compromise. Our ability to work together should encourage the American people that divided government can work." [U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer, 08/01/19]

- August 1, 2019: Sen. Cramer Voted For H.R. 3877, Which "Temporarily Suspend[ed] The Debt Limit." [The U.S. Senate, 08/01/19]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

But In 2021 Kramer Voted Against Raising The Debt Ceiling And In 2023 He Reintroduced The Full Faith And Credit Act, Which Would Ensure Funding For The Federal Government Even With A Default, Announcing "'It's Past Time The Federal Government Enact Responsible Budget Reforms."

December 14, 2021: Sen. Kramer Opposed Raising The Debt Ceiling, Saying It Was "'An Easy Decision" And That He "'Will Not Be Party To This Reckless And Irresponsible Behavior." "U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND), member of the Senate Budget Committee, issued the following statement after voting against Democrats' bill to increase the debt ceiling today: 'We just got terrible economic numbers last week with inflation hitting nearly 7%, the highest in 40 years. Amidst a background of Biden's supply chain crisis and skyrocketing prices everywhere, the last thing Democrats should be doing is increasing the debt ceiling by \$2.5 trillion to pay for even more inflationary spending. Voting no on raising the debt ceiling without

structural reforms to deal with underlying problems was an easy decision. Their spending is completely out-of-control and I will not be party to this reckless and irresponsible behavior,' said Senator Cramer." [U.S. Senator Kevin Kramer, 12/14/21]

January 25, 2023: A Group Of Republican Senators Reintroduced The Full Faith And Credit Act, Which Would Ensure Funding For The Federal Government "Should The Biden Administration Refuse To Exercise Its Existing Authority To Prioritize These Expenses And Prevent Default," With Senator Scott (R-FL) "Urg[Ing] His Colleagues To Refuse To Increase The Debt Ceiling." "Today, Senator Rick Scott was joined by Senators Mike Braun, Cynthia Lummis, Katie Britt, Ron Johnson, Mike Lee, Kevin Cramer, Jim Risch, Marsha Blackburn and Ted Budd in reintroducing the *Full Faith and Credit Act* to ensure the federal government prioritizes funding for our military, veterans and seniors should the Biden Administration refuse to exercise its existing authority to prioritize these expenses and prevent default. Senator Scott has been demanding that Congress take action to address America's \$31 trillion federal debt and get the reckless spending that fuels it under control. Senator Scott continues to urge his colleagues to refuse to increase the debt ceiling without also enacting true spending reform." [U.S. Senator Rick Scott, 01/25/23]

Sen. Kevin Cramer Co-Sponsored The Bill, Announcing "'It's Past Time The Federal Government Enact Responsible Budget Reforms" And Blaming Democrats For Adding "'Trillions To Our National Debt And The Bill Is Due." "Senator Kevin Cramer said, 'It's past time the federal government enact responsible budget reforms. Partisan Democrats added trillions to our national debt and the bill is due. If they refuse to negotiate over the mess they created, Washington will have to cut back, in which case, our bill would direct the Treasury Department to prioritize critical funding for seniors, veterans, and service members." [U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer, 01/27/23]

Over 20 Republican Representatives Who Voted To Raise The Debt Limit Throughout The Trump Administration Are Now Flip-Flopping On The Move With A Democratic President In Office.

Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA) Boasted About The "'House Once Again [Taking] Care Of Business'" After Raising The Debt Ceiling Under Trump But Was Quick To Criticize The Move To Increase The Debt Limit In 2023.

In February 2018, Rep. Steve Scalise Touted The "House Once Again [Taking] Care Of Our Business," After Voting On The Bipartisan Budget Act, Which Increased The Debt Ceiling.

February 7, 2018: In A Press Release After The First Vote, Rep. Scalise Touted The "House Once Again [Taking] Care Of Our Business By Voting To Keep Our Nation Safe By Fully Funding Our Military And Keeping Our Government Open." House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) released the following statement after the House passed a funding

extension bill through March 23, that includes a full year of appropriation for the Department of Defense for the 2018 fiscal year, provides funding extensions for critical public health programs and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and a permanent extension of the Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017. 'I am glad the House once again took care of our business by voting to keep our nation safe by fully funding our military and keeping our government open.'" [U.S. Representative Steve Scalise, 02/07/18]

- February 6, 2018: Rep. Scalise Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/06/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

But In January 2023, Scalise Was Quick To Criticize Efforts To Raise The Debt Limit, Saying, "'At Some Point In Time, You've Got To Sit Down And Say Why Are We Hitting The Limit?"

January 10, 2023: In A Press Conference, Rep. Scalise Criticized The Move To Increase The Debt Limit, Saying That While "'America Over Time Occasionally Hits The Debt Ceiling," "'At Some Point In Time, You've Got To Sit Down And Say Why Are We Hitting The Limit?'" "'America over time occasionally hits the debt ceiling because it's like a credit card limit,' Scalise, R-La., said at a press conference in the Capitol building. He was responding to a reporter who asked him to outline what lawmakers agreed to on the debt ceiling and whether he could "guarantee" the U.S. wouldn't default. 'And if you're going to ask for an increase in the limit, at some point in time, you've got to sit down and say why are we hitting the limit? Why are we maxing out the credit card? Because this is the nation's credit card,' he added." [CNBC, 01/10/23]

• **Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021.** [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Even Though Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) Admitted That Raising The Debt Limit "'Avoid[ed] The Horrific Consequences Of Defaulting On Our National Debt," He Stated Republicans "'Would Not Support Raising The Debt Limit" In 2021 Under President Biden.

In September 2017 And July 2019, Rep. Tom Cole Voted To Raise The Debt Limit, Admitting That Raising The Debt Limit "'Avoid[ed] The Horrific Consequences Of Defaulting On Our National Debt, Which Would Lead To Extreme Economic Chaos."

September 8, 2017: Rep. Cole "Appealed To His Colleagues To Vote For The Package," Saying He Thought The President "Bought The Time To Deal With These Natural Disasters And To Finish Tax Reform" By Raising The Debt Limit. "I actually think the president did the right thing. I think he bought the time to deal with these natural disasters and to finish tax reform and to put us in a position to negotiate a bipartisan, bicameral large

spending bill," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. Cole said he appealed to his colleagues to vote for the package." [USA Today, <u>09/08/17</u>]

- September 8, 2017: Rep. Cole Voted For H.R. 601, Which "Raise[d] The Debt Limit And Kept The Government Funded Until December." [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 09/08/17]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

July 25, 2019: Cole Admitted The 2019 Bipartisan Budget Act "'Avoid[ed] The Horrific Consequences Of Defaulting On Our National Debt, Which Would Lead To Extreme Economic Chaos." "Congressman Tom Cole (OK-04) released the following statement after the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. [...] 'While no one will claim this legislation is perfect, we should all be proud of the compromise achieved as a result of good faith negotiation between the president and congressional leaders across party lines. And I am encouraged that several bipartisan wins were achieved for the American people,' said Cole. 'First, the agreement avoids the horrific consequences of defaulting on our national debt, which would lead to extreme economic chaos." [U.S. Representative Tom Cole, 07/25/19]

- July 25, 2019: Rep. Cole Voted For H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act, Which Raised The Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 07/25/19]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

But In 2021, Under President Biden, Rep. Cole Stated Republicans "Would Not Support Raising The Debt Limit As Long As Democrats Peddle Their Bloated And Irresponsible Spending Plans."

September 29, 2021: Cole Stated That Republicans "Would Not Support Raising The Debt Limit As Long As Democrats Peddle Their Bloated And Irresponsible Spending Plans." "Congressman Tom Cole (OK-04) released the following statement after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the House Amendment to S. 1301, a measure to suspend the debt limit through the end of 2022. This vote comes after House Democrats last week put forward and passed a continuing resolution with the same suspension of the debt limit, which has stalled in the U.S. Senate. Cole opposed the legislation. 'Regarding this current situation, Republicans have made it known for months that they would not support raising the debt limit as long as Democrats peddle their bloated and irresponsible spending plans and socialist-style policies." [U.S. Representative Tom Cole, 09/29/21]

 Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21] Despite Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) Voting To Raise The Debt Ceiling In 2019, As It Came With "The Threat Of A Million-Dollar Government Shutdown," He Refused To Raise The Limit In 2021.

In July 2019, Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer—After Voting For The Bipartisan Budget Act—Warned That With Each Debt Ceiling Deadline "Comes The Threat Of A Million-Dollar Government Shutdown Putting Our Troops And The Government Services [...]Squarely In The Crosshairs."

July 26, 2019: Rep. Luetkemeyer Warned That With Each Debt Ceiling Deadline "Comes The Threat Of A Million-Dollar Government Shutdown Putting Our Troops And The Government Services [...] Squarely In The Crosshairs." "Along with each missed deadline comes the threat of a million-dollar government shutdown putting our troops and the government services so many Missourians depend on squarely in the crosshairs." [U.S. Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer, 07/26/19]

- July 25, 2019: Rep. Luetkemeyer Voted For H.R. 3877, The Bipartisan Budget Act, Which Raised The Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 07/25/19]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

But In October 2021, Under President Biden, Luetkemeyer Refused To Help Raise The Debt Limit, Saying "'This Isn't Going To Happen On Our Side."

October 5, 2021: In An Interview With Newsmax, Rep. Luetkemeyer Opposed Democratic Plans For "Funding Additional Debt And Additional Programs," Adding That "This Isn't Going To Happen On Our Side." "Today Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-03), Ranking Member on the House Small Business Committee joined Newsmax's "National Report" with Shaun Kraisman to discuss President Biden and Congressional Democrats' massive, far-Left spending agenda. [...] 'This isn't about funding the existing debt and ongoing expenses of the government. This is about [Democrats] funding additional debt and additional programs. And they want us to join them... and institute socialism into our government in an even greater style? I don't think so. Especially when you're looking at raising taxes to do it. No way. This isn't going to happen on our side. Good luck, Mr. President." [U.S. Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer, 10/05/21]

• **Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021.** [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC) Voted To Raise The Debt Limit Under President Trump, Praising It As A Fulfillment To The "Shared Commitment To Strengthening Our Military And Keeping Americans Safe," But Called Effort To Raise The Debt Ceiling "Political Theater" Under President Biden.

In February 2018, Rep. Patrick McHenry Voted For The Budget Act Of 2018, Which Raised The Debt Limit, Praising It As A Fulfillment To The "Shared Commitment To Strengthening Our Military And Keeping Americans Safe."

February 9, 2018: Rep. McHenry Praised The Bipartisan Budget Act, Which Raised The Debt Limit And Funded Military Operations, As A Fulfillment To The "Shared Commitment To Strengthening Our Military And Keeping Americans Safe." "Chief Deputy Whip Patrick McHenry (NC-10) released the following statement on the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act: [...] 'General Mattis made clear the increased defense funding in this package is necessary to repair our military and ensure our troops have the resources they need. By passing this budget agreement we are standing with President Trump and fulfilling our shared commitment to strengthening our military and keeping Americans safe.' [...] The agreement lifts the debt limit through March 1, 2019." [U.S. Representative Patrick McHenry, 02/09/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. McHenry Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

#### But In 2021, McHenry Called Efforts To Raise The Debt Ceiling "Political Theater" When President Biden Was In Office.

September 30, 2021: McHenry Called The House Debt Ceiling Bill "Political Theater" That Is "Doomed To Fail In The Senate." "Yesterday, the House passed a debt ceiling bill that is doomed in the Senate. It was political theater—they know it, we know it, you know it. It is theater designed to distract Americans from the fact that Democrats have no idea how to govern. They've known this deadline was coming. They knew it the day they took control of the Senate. They knew it the day President Biden was sworn into office. And they knew it the day you were confirmed as Treasury Secretary. The Democrats have been in charge of our country for nearly a year, and they did nothing. Except spend more money, leaving us further in debt." [U.S. House Financial Services Committee, 09/30/21]

• **Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021.** [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Despite Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA) Voting For The Budget Act Of 2018 To "Avert Another Long And Costly Government Shutdown," In 2021 He Called Out House Democrats For Their Continuing Resolution Providing Short-Term Government Funding.

#### In February 2018, Rep. Rick Allen Voted For The Budget Act Of 2018 To "Avert Another Long And Costly Government Shutdown."

February 9, 2018: Rep. Allen Voted For The Bipartisan Budget Bill In Order To Keep The Government Open, Explaining That "'We Averted Another Long And Costly Government Shutdown." "Congressman Rick W. Allen (GA-12) released the following statement after the House and Senate passed a bipartisan budget bill in order to keep the government open: 'Today, I had to make a tough choice. We averted another long and costly government shutdown, but these backdoor deals must end. I strongly believe that we need significant reforms to runaway mandatory spending in order to balance our budget and reduce our deficits." [U.S. Representative Rick Allen, 02/09/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Allen Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

But In September 2021, Rep. Allen Called Out House Democrats For Their Continuing Resolution Providing Short-Term Government Funding.

September 22, 2021: In A Tweet, Rep. Allen Called Out House Democrats For Their Continuing Resolution Providing Short-Term Government Funding, Saying That Democratic Leadership Made A "Mockery Of The Legislative Process."



Last night House Democrats rammed through their Continuing Resolution for short-term government funding. Pelosi continues to make a mockery of the legislative process and play games with government funding. If this wasn't bad enough, they blocked funding for our ally Israel!

10:04 AM · Sep 22, 2021

[Twitter, 09/22/21]

• Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

In August 2017, Ahead Of The Vote On H.R. 601, Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR) Announced That "Congress Will Raise The Debt Ceiling," Yet In 2021, Stated That Democrats "Can Go It Alone On Raising The Credit Limit."

#### In August 2017, Ahead Of The Vote On H.R. 601, Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR) Announced That "Congress Will Raise The Debt Ceiling."

August 2017: Rep. Womack Announced That "Congress Will Raise The Debt Ceiling." "Congress will raise the debt ceiling, Womack said, allowing further federal spending. Whether it passes a budget, though, depends largely on the Senate, he added. The debt ceiling, the amount set by Congress as the maximum amount the government can have in its total debt, is currently \$19.81 trillion. How much it should be raised or whether the limit should be suspended for a time is in dispute." [Arkansas Online, 08/21/17]

- September 8, 2017: Rep. Womack Voted For H.R. 601, Which Raised The Debt Limit And Kept The Government Funded Until December. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 09/08/17]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

Yet In September 2021, Rep. Womack Stated That Democrats "Can Go It Alone On Raising The Credit Limit."

September 29, 2021: In A Statement, Rep. Womack Announced His Opposition To Raising The Debt Ceiling, Stating That Democrats "Can Go It Alone On Raising The Credit Limit." "Congressman Steve Womack (AR-3) released the below statement after opposing suspension of the debt ceiling, which would provide Democrats a blank check for trillions of dollars in new socialist spending: 'For three years, House Democrats have been on a spending spree, totally oblivious to the mounting debt of our nation. Worse yet, they have denied Republicans a seat at the table for reforms purposed in improving our balance sheet. Our country cannot afford the size and scope of government envisioned by Democrats. It's pretty simple—if they don't want Republican input in these massive spending measures, they can go it alone on raising the credit limit." [U.S. Representative Steve Womack, 09/29/21]

- Press Release: Womack Opposes Proposal to Raise Debt Ceiling. [U.S. Representative Steve Womack, 09/29/21]
- Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

After Voting On The Bipartisan Budget Act, Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE) Warned That Not Voting For The Bill Would Have Led To "More Gridlock, Budget Shutdowns, And A Dilapidated Military," Adding That "The Country Is Calling For More Bipartisanship And Less Vitriol And Dysfunction," But Voted Against Raising The Debt Limit Under Democratic President Biden.

Under President Trump In February 2018, Rep. Don Bacon Warned That Not Voting For The Bipartisan Budget Act Would Have Led To "More Gridlock, Budget Shutdowns, And A Dilapidated Military."

February 9, 2018: After Voting On The Bipartisan Budget Bill Act Rep. Bacon Warned That The Alternative To This Compromise Would Have Led To "More Gridlock, Budget Shutdowns, And A Dilapidated Military," Adding That "'The Country Is Calling For More Bipartisanship And Less Vitriol And Dysfunction." "Congressman Don Bacon (NE-02) released the following statement after voting for the Bipartisan Budget Act, that includes funding for the Department of Defense, veterans, natural disaster assistance and critical health care programs: [...] 'The alternative to this compromise leads to more gridlock, budget shutdowns, and a dilapidated military. The country is calling for more bipartisanship and less vitriol and dysfunction, and we heed this call with this bipartisan budget deal." [U.S. Representative Don Bacon, 02/09/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Bacon Voted For H.R. 1892 The Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

But Rep. Bacon Voted Against Raising The Limit In 2021 Saying "'We Cannot Continue To Increase It Without A Long-Term Plan," And Most

#### Recently In 2023, Called Out President Biden For "Refus[ing] To Negotiate" On The Debt Ceiling And Federal Spending.

December 15, 2021: Bacon Voted No To Increasing The Debt Ceiling, Saying That "Our Country Is Already Nearly \$29 Trillion In Debt, And We Cannot Continue To Increase It Without A Long-Term Plan." "Rep Don Bacon (NE-02) issued the following statement after voting no to increase the debt ceiling: 'Our country is already nearly \$29 trillion in debt, and we cannot continue to increase it without a long-term plan to address our country's out of control spending. [...] Our country is facing a debt crisis and it is triggering out-of-control inflation that is hurting American families." [U.S. Representative Don Bacon, 12/15/21]

• Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

January 25, 2023: In A C-SPAN Interview, Rep. Bacon Called Out President Biden For "Refus[ing] To Negotiate" On The Debt Ceiling And Federal Spending, While Blaming Recent Spending On Democrats. "On the other hand though, I think it's wrong for President Biden to refuse to negotiate because we have a divided government. And a lot of the spending we did over the last two years was on party line votes, so as Republicans, we ran on fiscal responsibility and stopping the reckless spending because we think it leads to inflation or has helped increase inflation. So he's go to meet us in the middle as well." [C–SPAN, 01/25/23 (0:35)]

Under President Trump, Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL) Voted For The Bipartisan Budget Act To "Protect The Economy From Debt Default," But Slammed Democratic Leadership For Raising The Debt Limit In 2021.

## In February 2018, Rep. Mike Bost Voted For The Bipartisan Budget Act As To "Avert A Government Shutdown," Which "Protects The Economy From Debt Default."

**February 9, 2018: Rep. Bost Voted For The Bipartisan Budget Act As To "Avert A Government Shutdown," Which "Protects The Economy From Debt Default."** "Today, Rep. Mike Bost (IL-12) voted for the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which averts a government shutdown, protects our economy from a dangerous debt default, strengthens our national security, and repeals Obamacare's Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). [...] 'This legislation isn't perfect, but it averts a government shutdown, protects the economy from debt default, and provides certainty to our troops and our seniors,' said Bost." [U.S. Representative Mike Bost, <u>02/09/18</u>]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Bost Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

#### But In September 2021, Rep. Bost Slammed Democratic Leadership For Raising The Debt Limit Under President Biden.

September 21, 2021: Bost Slammed Democratic Leadership For "Shaking Down Congress For A Debt Limit Increase To Fund President Biden's Massive \$3.5 Trillion Liberal Wish List," Claiming Raising The Limit Would "Make The Problem Worse." "U.S. Representative Mike Bost (IL-12) today voted against the House Democrats' legislation to raise the nation's debt limit through December 2022 to help pay for their \$3.5 trillion spending bill. 'House Republicans are fighting for solutions to fund essential government services and provide disaster relief to Americans in need. However, Speaker Pelosi isn't interested in solutions. She's shaking down Congress for a debt limit increase to fund President Biden's massive \$3.5 trillion liberal wish list, even if it risks a government shutdown. As working families struggle with price increases on groceries, gasoline, and housing, there's no chance that I'm handing the Washington Democrats a blank check to make the problem worse." [U.S. Representative Mike Bost, 09/21/21]

• Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Even Though Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) Touted Passage Of The Bipartisan Budget Act As "Ensur[ing] That The Federal Government Can Continue To Pay Its Bills," He Voted Against Raising The Debt Limit In 2021 Under President Biden.

In February 2018, Rep. Joe Wilson Touted The Bipartisan Budget Act For "Lifting Strict Budget Caps, And Rais[ing] The Debt Ceiling To Ensure That The Federal Government Can Continue To Pay Its Bills."

February 9, 2018: Rep. Wilson Touted Passage Of The Bipartisan Budget Act For Providing "Lifting Strict Budget Caps, And Rais[ing] The Debt Ceiling To Ensure That The Federal Government Can Continue To Pay Its Bills." "Today, the House passed a two-year budget agreement that finally provides critical relief from sequestration for defense and domestic spending by lifting strict budget caps, and raises the debt ceiling to ensure that the federal government can continue to pay its bills." [U.S. Representative Joe Wilson, 02/09/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Wilson Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

But In December 2021, A Month After Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Warned The U.S. Would Hit Its Debt Limit After December 15th, Rep. Wilson Voted Against Raising The Debt Limit To Prevent The "First-Ever Federal Default" Under President Biden.

November 16, 2021: Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Warned That The United States "Might Not Be Able To Pay Its Bills After December 15." "Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the United States might not be able to pay its bills after December 15 as the United States barrels toward hitting the debt limit. The new so-called x-date comes just over one month after lawmakers reached a short-term deal to raise the debt limit into December." [CBS News, 11/16/21]

**December 15, 2021: Rep. Wilson Voted Against A Joint Resolution** To Increase **The Debt Limit**. [United States House of Representatives Office Of The Clerk, <u>12/15/21</u>]

In December 2021, In The Face Of "Nearly Unanimous Republican Opposition,"
 Congress Approved A Joint Resolution To Increase The Debt Limit By \$2.5 Trillion
 Pushing "The Threat Of A First-Ever Federal Default" Until Early 2023. "Congress
 gave final approval early Wednesday to legislation that would raise the debt ceiling by
 \$2.5 trillion, moving over nearly unanimous Republican opposition to stave off the threat
 of a first-ever federal default until at least early 2023." [The New York Times, 12/14/21]

Even Though Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) "Encouraged [His] Colleagues In The Senate To Quickly Pass This Legislation" To Raise The Debt Limit In 2018, He Called Out House Democrats In 2021 For "Blowing Up The Bipartisan Agreement And Attaching This Package To A Debt Limit Increase."

In February 2018, Before Voting On The Bipartisan Budget Act, Rep. Brad Wenstrup "Encouraged [His] Colleagues In The Senate To Quickly Pass This Legislation" To Raise The Debt Limit Under Trump.

February 6, 2018: Rep. Wenstrup "Encouraged [His] Colleagues In The Senate To Quickly Pass This Legislation," Adding Defense Secretary Mattis' Point That "'America Can Afford Survival." "Today, Congressman Brad Wenstrup (OH-02) released the following statement after voting for H.R. 1892 to fully fund our military: 'Today's legislation includes full funding for the Department of Defense, as previously passed three times by the House of Representatives. I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to quickly pass this legislation and set our troops free from partisan disputes over unrelated domestic issues. As Defense Secretary Mattis said today during his testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, 'America can afford survival." [U.S. Representative Brad Wenstrup, 02/06/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Wenstrup Voted For H.R. 1892. The Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed 01/24/23]

But In December 2021, Rep. Wenstrup, As Co-Chair Of The GOP Doctors Caucus, Called Out House Democrats For "Blowing Up The

#### Bipartisan Agreement And Attaching This Package To A Debt Limit Increase."

December 7, 2021: The GOP Doctors Caucus Called Out House Democrats For "Blowing Up The Bipartisan Agreement And Attaching This Package To A Debt Limit Increase." "Today, the GOP Doctors Caucus issued the following statement regarding House Democrats' choice to tie bipartisan relief to physicians from impending Medicare cuts to an increase in the debt limit: 'House Democrats are deciding that patients' access to health care is clearly not their priority. First and foremost, we want to ensure that Medicare patients have access to quality care. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, health care providers have faced serious instability and uncertainty. Pairing those concerns with scheduled cuts to physician and provider reimbursements would be disastrous for Americans trying to get the medical treatment they need. After working out a good-faith compromise on a legislative proposal, House Democrats are blowing up the bipartisan agreement and attaching this package to a debt limit increase." [U.S. Representative Brad Wenstrup, 12/07/21]

- Wenstrup Serves As Co-Chair Of The GOP Doctors Caucus. [U.S. Representative Brad Wenstrup, accessed <u>01/30/23</u>]
- **Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021.** [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

During The Trump Administration, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN) Warned That "Budgetary Instability Is Detrimental To The Security Of Our Nation," Yet Criticized Democrats For Moving To Increase The Debt Limit In 2021.

#### In February 2018, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann Warned That The "Budgetary Instability Is Detrimental To The Security Of Our Nation."

February 9, 2018: Rep. Fleischmann Warned That The "Budgetary Instability Is Detrimental To The Security Of Our Nation." "Congressman Chuck Fleischmann (TN-03) issued the following statement upon the House passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act: [...] 'The current governing trend of short-term solutions and budgetary instability is detrimental to the security of our nation. Secretary Mattis recently stated the urgent need for fiscal stability for our service members by accommodating the requests made by the Pentagon to maintain our world class military." [U.S. Representative Chuck Fleischmann, 02/09/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Fleischmann Voted For H.R. 1892 The Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

Yet Under President Biden In 2021, Rep. Fleishmann Criticized Democrats' Move To Increase The Debt Limit.

September 21, 2021: Fleishmann Criticized Democrats' Move To Increase The Debt Limit, Saying "They Only Care About Increasing Our Debt Limit To Force Their Radical Socialist \$4 Trillion Budget Down The Throats Of Hard-Working Americans." "Congressional Democrats have once again shown that they only care about increasing our debt limit to force their radical socialist \$4 trillion budget down the throats of hard-working Americans,' said Congressman Fleischmann. 'Democrats' budget will only cause inflation to increase further and cause real wages to continue to plummet. The American People deserve responsible, good governance from Congress, and not Democrats' reckless socialist policies." [U.S. Representative Chuck Fleischmann, 09/21/21]

• Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Despite Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO) Voting To Raise The Debt Limit In 2018 And Saying "'The United States Will Never Default On Its Debt,'" She Voted Against Raising The Debt Limit In 2021 Under President Biden.

In February 2018, Rep. Ann Wagner Hailed The Bipartisan Budget Act And Its Investments As "The Single Most Important Thing We Can Do To Provide For The National Defense And A Safer America" And Said "The United States Will Never Default On Its Debt."

February 9, 2018: Rep. Wagner Touted The Passage Of The Bipartisan Budget Act, Hailing The Legislation And Its Investments As "The Single Most Important Thing We Can Do To Provide For The National Defense And A Safer America." "The current state of our military readiness is unacceptable and impacts our ability to respond to global crises. This morning, Congress broke the gridlock and finally passed a bill that, as Defense Secretary Mattis said, supports our troops and rebuilds our military. Fully funding our military, which is bolstered by the leadership of Missouri's robust defense industry, is the single most important thing we can do to provide for the national defense and a safer America." [U.S. Representative Ann Wagner, 02/09/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Wagner Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

In January 2023, Wagner Said That "'The United States Will Never Default On Its Debt." "Wagner called on the administration to negotiate with Republicans to cut spending. 'The United States will never default on its debt, but runaway deficit spending must be brought under control,' Wagner said." [The Kansas City Star, 01/20/23]

But In December 2021, A Month After Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Warned That The U.S. Will Hit Its Debt Limit After December 15th, Rep. Wagner Voted Against Raising The Debt Limit To Prevent The "First-Ever Federal Default" Under President Biden.

November 16, 2021: Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Warned That The United States "Might Not Be Able To Pay Its Bills After December 15." "Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the United States might not be able to pay its bills after December 15 as the United States barrels toward hitting the debt limit. The new so-called x-date comes just over one month after lawmakers reached a short-term deal to raise the debt limit into December." [CBS News, 11/16/21]

December 15, 2021: Rep. Wagner Voted Against A Joint Resolution Relating To Increasing The Debt Limit. [United States House of Representatives Office Of The Clerk, 12/15/21]

- In December 2021, In The Face Of "Nearly Unanimous Republican Opposition,"
   Congress Approved A Joint Resolution To Increase The Debt Limit By \$2.5 Trillion
   Pushing "The Threat Of A First-Ever Federal Default" Until Early 2023. "Congress
   gave final approval early Wednesday to legislation that would raise the debt ceiling by
   \$2.5 trillion, moving over nearly unanimous Republican opposition to stave off the threat
   of a first-ever federal default until at least early 2023." [The New York Times, 12/14/21]
- Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

In February 2018, Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH) Called The Bipartisan Budget Act A "'Win For Our Men And Women In Uniform," But Then Criticized President Biden's Move To Increase The Debt Limit In 2021.

### In February 2018, Rep. Mike Turner Called The Bipartisan Budget Act A "A Win For Our Men And Women In Uniform,"

February 9, 2018: Rep. Turner Praised The Passage Of The Bipartisan Budget Act, Calling It "'A Win For Our Men And Women In Uniform." "'Today's passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act is a win for our men and women in uniform, including those at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,' said Turner. 'I have fought for increased funding for our troops since the devastating defense sequester was enacted under President Obama. This long-term bipartisan budget deal provides the money and certainty our armed forces need to move forward and address growing global threats." [U.S Representative Mike Turner, 02/09/18]

 February 9, 2018: Rep. Turner Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18] • **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed 01/24/23]

#### <u>But In October 2021, Rep. Turner Criticized President Biden's Move To</u> Increase The Debt Limit.

October 6, 2021: In An Interview With NewsMax Later Posted On Twitter, Rep. Turner Criticized President Biden's Move To Increase The Debt Limit, Saying His Policy "Doesn't Make Any Sense." "Mike Turner: 'He's saying we're having economic difficulty and competing with China and others, and therefore we have to increase the debt limit to this unlimited amount. It's as if a family had a meeting and said 'we're having economic pressure so we're going to max our credit cards.' It doesn't make any sense. Of course the Republicans aren't going to support this. The American public won't support this'":



[Twitter, 10/06/21]

• Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Even Though Under President Trump, Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) Said That America Making Good On Its Debts "Is A Legal And Moral Obligation," He Called Out Democratic Leadership In 2021 For "Lack[ing] The Ability To Make Sound Fiscal Policy."

In July 2019, Rep. Glenn Thompson Touted The 2019 Bipartisan
Budget Act Asr Ensuring "That America Will Make Good On Its Debts,
Which I Believe Is A Legal And Moral Obligation."

July 25, 2019: Rep. Thompson Touted The Bipartisan Budget Act As "A Step In The Right Direction" That "Prevents A Blow To The Economy." "Representative Glenn Thompson voted in favor of H.R. 3877, which ensures America can continue to service our national debt and pay our bills. [...] 'The bill may not be perfect, as it does not address mandatory spending—the true driver of our national debt. However, it is a step in the right direction that is free of harmful riders, prevents a blow to the economy, and allows us to continue to advocate on behalf of the American people." [U.S Representative Glenn Thompson, 07/25/19]

- July 25, 2019: Rep. Thompson Voted For H.R. 3877 The Bipartisan Budget Act, Which Raised The Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 07/25/19]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

September 8, 2017: Rep. Thompson Hailed The Legislative Package As Ensuring "That America Will Make Good On Its Debts, Which I Believe Is A Legal And Moral Obligation." "U.S. Representative Glenn 'GT' Thompson issued the following statement on passage of legislation that provides hurricane relief aid, addresses the debt limit, continues to fund the government and extends flood insurance. Rep. Thompson voted in favor of the measure, which was approved by a bipartisan vote of 316-90. [...] Today's legislative package will keep government operations running through December, provide critical hurricane relief for those who have suffered devastating losses as a result of Harvey, and adequate resources to address the impending damages from Hurricane Irma. We have also ensured that America will make good on its debts, which I believe is a legal and moral obligation." [U.S Representative Glenn Thompson, 09/08/17]

- September 8, 2017: Rep. Thompson Voted For H.R. 601, Which Raised The Debt Limit And Kept The Government Funded Until December. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 09/08/17]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

But In December 2021, A Month After Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Warned That The U.S. Will Hit Its Debt Limit After December 15th, Rep. Thompson Called Out Democratic Leadership For "Lack[ing] The

### Ability To Make Sound Fiscal Policy" And Voted Against Raising The Debt Limit To Prevent The "First-Ever Federal Default" Under President Biden.

November 16, 2021: Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Warned That The United States "Might Not Be Able To Pay Its Bills After December 15." "Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the United States might not be able to pay its bills after December 15 as the United States barrels toward hitting the debt limit. The new so-called x-date comes just over one month after lawmakers reached a short-term deal to raise the debt limit into December." [CBS News, 11/16/21]

December 8, 2021: Thompson Called Out Democratic Leadership For "Lack[ing] The Ability To Make Sound Fiscal Policy," Saying The Move To Increase The Debt Limit Would "Only Continue To Burden Future Generations With Crippling Debt." "It is clear that Democrat leadership in the House and Senate lack the ability to make sound fiscal policy and have resorted to changing the rules of the game to get a vote on raising the debt ceiling. I cannot in good conscience support a plan that does not include dramatic steps to reduce and reform federal spending. This is unacceptable and will only continue to burden future generations with crippling debt." [U.S Representative Glenn Thompson, 12/08/21]

December 15, 2021: Rep. Thompson Voted Against A Joint Resolution Related To Increasing The Debt Limit. [United States House of Representatives Office Of The Clerk, 12/15/21]

- In December 2021, In The Face Of "Nearly Unanimous Republican Opposition,"
   Congress Approved A Joint Resolution To Increase The Debt Limit By \$2.5 Trillion
   Pushing "The Threat Of A First-Ever Federal Default" Until Early 2023. "Congress
   gave final approval early Wednesday to legislation that would raise the debt ceiling by
   \$2.5 trillion, moving over nearly unanimous Republican opposition to stave off the threat
   of a first-ever federal default until at least early 2023." [The New York Times, 12/14/21]
- **Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021.** [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Under President Trump, Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) Argued That "The American People Should Not Be Subjected To Another Shutdown," Yet In 2021 He Announced He Could "Not Support A Democrat-Manufactured Crisis Which Puts The Full Faith And Credit Of The United States At Risk."

In February 2018, Under President Trump, Doug LaMalfa Argued That "The American People Should Not Be Subjected To Another Shutdown That Only Harms Our Military Members And Government Employees." February 6, 2018: Ahead Of Senate Debate On The Bipartisan Budget Bill, Rep. LaMalfa Stated, "'The American People Should Not Be Subjected To Another Shutdown That Only Harms Our Military Members And Government Employees." "Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) issued the following statement after the House passed H.R. 1892 to fund the federal government until March 23, 2018 and fund the military for a full year. [...] 'The American people should not be subjected to another shutdown that only harms our military members and government employees." [U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa, 02/06/18]

- February 6, 2018: Rep. LaMalfa Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/06/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

Yet In September 2021, LaMalfa Announced He Could "Not Support A Democrat-Manufactured Crisis Which Puts The Full Faith And Credit Of The United States At Risk."

September 22, 2021: LaMalfa Announced He Would "'Not Support A Democrat-Manufactured Crisis Which Puts The Full Faith And Credit Of The United States At Risk To Shield Vulnerable Democrats From Having To Vote In Favor Of Unlimited Spending." "Earlier tonight, Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) issued the following statement after voting against a proposal from House Democrats that would have allowed unlimited additional debt through December 2022, in exchange for preventing a government shutdown next week and authorizing assistance to recent disaster victims. [...] 'Over the past few years, I have frequently supported disaster packages and emergency spending when it was needed,' LaMalfa said. 'I will not support a Democrat-manufactured crisis which puts the full faith and credit of the United States at risk to shield vulnerable Democrats from having to vote in favor of unlimited spending.'" [U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa, 09/22/21]

• Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Despite Slamming House Colleagues Who Wanted To "'Once Again Shut Down The Government" Under President Trump, In 2021 Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI) Said Democrats Need To "Choose Between The Biden Agenda, And Continuing To Raise The Debt Limit In The Future."

In February 2018, Rep. Glenn Grothman Touted The Importance Of "Voting In Favor Of This Budget Kept The Government Open," And Slammed House Colleagues Who Wanted To "Once Again Shut Down The Government." February 9, 2018: Rep. Grothman Touted The Importance Of The Bipartisan Budget Act, While Slamming House Colleagues Who Wanted To "'Once Again Shut Down The Government." "Congressman Glenn Grothman (R-Glenbeulah) early this morning supported the Bipartisan Budget Act. The two-year budget agreement includes funding for items like disaster relief, infrastructure and a long-term extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program. 'Quite simply, voting in favor of this budget kept the government open – something I thought important to do, but that some of my House colleagues did not; they wanted to once again shut down the government over the DACA program, but this time they were unsuccessful." [U.S. Representative Glenn Grothman, 02/09/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Grothman Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

But In October 2021, Grothman Believed "Democrats Need To Choose Between The Biden Agenda, And Continuing To Raise The Debt Limit In The Future."

October 2021: Grothman Believes "Democrats Need To Choose Between The Biden Agenda, And Continuing To Raise The Debt Limit In The Future," And That It Was "Ridiculous to Say We're Going To Raise The Debt Limit At The Same Time We Are Either Adding New Programs On Or Greatly Increasing Old Programs." "Republicans like Rep. Grothman say this situation should be an eye-opener for congress. 'The reason we have so much inflation right now whether it be housing or food is simply that congress is just spending too much,' said Grothman. [...] While Grothman believes Democrats need to choose between the Biden agenda, and continuing to raise the debt limit in the future. 'I mean it seems ridiculous to say we're going to raise the debt limit at the same time we are either adding new programs on or greatly increasing old programs,' said Grothman." [Fox 11 News, 10/06/21]

• **Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021.** [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) Announced She Would Be "Supporting The Bipartisan Deal," But Under President Biden She Warned That A Move To Raise The Debt Ceiling "Will Only Bankrupt Our Future Generations."

In February 2018, Rep. Stefanik Announced She Would Be
"Supporting The Bipartisan Deal" To "Give Our Men And Women In
Uniform The Resources They Need To Keep Us Safe."

February 9, 2018: Rep. Stefanik Announced She Would Be "Supporting The Bipartisan Deal" To "Give Our Men And Women In Uniform The Resources They Need To Keep Us Safe." "Today, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21) announced her support for the

Bipartisan Budget Act, critical legislation to adjust spending caps to more adequately fund our military and other priorities: 'I will be supporting the bipartisan deal that increases total defense spending so that we can give our men and women in uniform the resources they need to keep us safe, said Congresswoman Stefanik." [U.S Representative Elise Stefanik, 02/09/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Stefanik Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed 01/24/23]

## But In September 2021, Stefanik Warned That A Democratic Move To Raise The Debt Ceiling "'[Would] Only Bankrupt Our Future Generations."

September 21, 2021: Rep. Stefanik "Voted Against Democrats' Attempt To Raise The Nation's Debt Ceiling To Fund Their Far-Left Agenda," Stating Their "Reckless Spending Will Only Bankrupt Our Future Generations." "Congresswoman Elise Stefanik today voted against Democrats' attempt to raise the nation's debt ceiling to fund their Far-Left agenda. She released the following statement: 'House Democrats have failed to do their job. Instead of responsibly funding the government, they have chosen to prioritize their Far-Left Socialist wish list. [...] House Democrats' funding crisis is of their own making, but they still want Congress to write them a blank check and raise the debt ceiling to pay for their \$3.5 trillion Socialist wish list. This reckless spending will only bankrupt our future generations." [U.S Representative Elise Stefanik, 09/21/21]

• Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

In February 2018, Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA) Touted Voting For The Bipartisan Budget Act Which Raised The Debt Limit Yet Scrutinized The 2021 Bill To Increase The Debt Limit, Characterizing It As "An Uncapped Debt Increase."

In February 2018, Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA) Touted Voting For The Bipartisan Budget Act, Adding That He Helped "Set Our Country Free From The Hostage Of Short-Term Spending Measures And Government Shutdowns."

February 9, 2018: Rep. Scott Touted Voting Yes On The Budget Act, Adding That He Set Our "Country Free From The Hostage Of Short-Term Spending Measures And Government Shutdowns." "Congressman Austin Scott (GA-08), a Member of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), today released the following statement upon passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act: 'I voted YES on the budget agreement to set our military and country free from the hostage of short-term spending measures and government shutdowns. Our soldiers and their families should never have to wonder if their capabilities will be cut or their

pay withheld because of political games and infighting in Washington,' said Rep. Scott." [U.S. Representative Austin Scott, 02/09/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Scott Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

### Yet In September 2021, Scott Scrutinized A Bill To Increase The Debt Limit, Characterizing The Move As "An Uncapped Debt Increase."

September 29, 2021: Rep. Scott Criticized A Bill To Increase The Debt Limit, Characterizing The Move As "'An Uncapped Debt Increase" And Warning About Its Impact On American Families. "Congressman Austin Scott (GA-08) released the below statement upon voting against raising the country's debt limit through December 2022. The measure passed the House through the Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act (S.1301). 'The 'Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act' sounds like a good bill until you see that Speaker Pelosi stripped out the language of the legislation and inserted an uncapped debt increase through December 2022. You just can't make this stuff up,' said Rep. Scott. 'Raising the debt limit until December 2022 does nothing to address the fiscal issues our country is facing. It only allows Democrats more room to continue to spend without any regard for our debt or the impact their economic policies are having on American families." [U.S. Representative Austin Scott, 02/29/21]

• **Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021.** [The New York Times, 01/20/21]

In 2018, Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY) Admitted It Was "Refreshing To See This Congress [...] Provide Certainty And Sustainability For Programs That Are Important To The American People" By Raising The Debt Ceiling, But Under President Biden, Rogers Criticized The Move As "Writing A Blank Check For The Rest Of The Year."

In February 2018, Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY) Released A Statement
Admitting It Was "Refreshing To See This Congress Reach Across
The Aisle For The Greater Good And Provide Certainty And
Sustainability For Programs That Are Important To The American
People."

February 9, 2018: After Voting For The Bipartisan Budget Act, Rep. Rogers Released A Statement Admitting It Was "'Refreshing To See This Congress Reach Across The Aisle For The Greater Good And Provide Certainty And Sustainability For Programs That Are Important To The American People." "U.S. Rep. Harold 'Hal' Rogers released the following

statement after both the U.S. House and Senate approved the Bipartisan Budget Act for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. The two-year budget agreement extends government operations through March 23, 2018 and paves the way for comprehensive, long-term federal funding. [...] 'While I may not agree with everything in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, it is refreshing to see this Congress reach across the aisle for the greater good and provide certainty and sustainability for programs that are important to the American people, from children's health insurance, to Medicare, to education, to national security. Together, we are building a stronger, more secure America." [U.S. Representative Hal Rogers, 02/09/18]

- February 9, 2018: Rep. Rogers Voted For H.R. 1892, The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, Which Raised the Debt Limit. [U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Clerk, 02/09/18]
- **Donald Trump Was President From January 2017 To January 2021.** [The White House, accessed <u>01/24/23</u>]

## While In 2021, Under President Biden, Rogers Criticized Democratic Efforts To Raise The Debt Ceiling As "Writing A Blank Check For The Rest Of The Year."

September 22, 2021: Rogers Criticized Democrats For Wanting To Raise The Debt Limit, Stating They "'Want The American People To Come To Their Rescue By Writing A Blank Check For The Rest Of The Year.'" "'Washington Democrats have been on a non-stop spending spree since the beginning of the year with control of the House, the Senate and the White House. And now that the debt limit is at a record \$28.4 trillion, they want the American people to come to their rescue by writing a blank check for the rest of the year, rather than working toward a fiscally responsible plan for the future,' said Congressman Rogers. 'I strongly oppose this bill and this way of conducting business behind closed doors, refusing negotiations with Republicans who want to work through better ways to address our nation's debt crisis. They are effectively removing the voice of the American people with their exclusive politics.'" [U.S. Representative Hal Rogers, 09/22/21]

• Joe Biden Has Served As President Since January 20, 2021. [The New York Times, 01/20/21]