

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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February 13, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

We are writing to ask that the Committee hold hearings this month on the impact of the automatic budget cuts scheduled to go into effect as part of the scheduled March 1 budget sequester. Absent congressional action, the sequester will result in over \$85 billion in cuts to key domestic priorities and defense programs.

These cuts would affect almost every agency within the Committee's jurisdiction and require budget cuts of almost 10% for the remainder of the fiscal year. They would endanger government agencies and program that provide important protections for American families. The list of cuts is vast and their impact potentially severe. They include:

- Reductions in FDA funding, including cuts to food safety funds that would result in 2,100 fewer scheduled food safety inspections and cuts to FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research that would delay new drug approvals.¹
- Reductions in funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Mental Health Block Grant Programs, resulting in almost 400,000 adults and children with serious mental illnesses going untreated.²
- Reductions in research funding for the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, delaying or halting research into the prevention and treatment of diseases and conditions affecting millions of Americans and affecting thousands of scientists and researchers.³

¹ Office of Management and Budget, *Sequestration Impacts* (Feb. 8, 2013)


² *Id.*

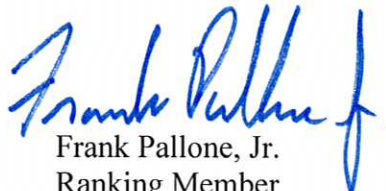
³ *Id.*


- Reductions in funding for the Aids Drug Assistance Program, which could result in 7,400 fewer patients having access to HIV medications, and reductions in funding for CDC, which could result in over 400,000 fewer AIDS tests being conducted this year.⁴
- Reductions in the EPA budget for enforcement of public health and environmental protections, grants to state and local governments for drinking water and wastewater projects and water quality permitting and air quality monitoring, and hazardous waste cleanups.⁵


It would be irresponsible for the Committee to fail to investigate the impact of these massive cuts to important agencies and programs under our jurisdiction. We hope you will schedule these hearings as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health


Bobby L. Rush
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and
Power


Anna G. Eshoo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on
Communications and
Technology


Diana DeGette
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations


Jan Schakowsky
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Manufacturing, and Trade


Paul Tonko
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment
and the Economy

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson Testimony Before the U.S. Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works (March 22, 2012)