

March 26, 2025

**The Honorable Mike Johnson**

Speaker of the U.S. House of  
Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries**

Minority Leader, U.S. House of  
Representatives  
2267 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Steve Scalise**

Majority Whip  
266 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Tom Cole**

Chairman, Committee on House  
Appropriations  
2207 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Cc: all members of the U.S. House of Representatives

**RE: Take Up and Swiftly Pass the District of Columbia Local Funds Act of 2025 to Restore D.C.'s Budget Autonomy**

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Whip Scalise, and Chairman Cole:

On behalf of the nearly 200 undersigned national and local faith, small business, parent, education, civil rights, justice reform, democracy, labor, and environmental groups, **we write to urge the U.S. House of Representatives to promptly bring the District of Columbia Local Funds Act of 2025 to the floor under suspension of the rules and swiftly pass it into law.** This bill – passed unanimously in the U.S. Senate – would restore the District of Columbia's ability to spend its locally raised tax dollars under its already Congress-approved Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget.

There is an urgent need for the District of Columbia Local Funds Act of 2025 due to implications from the recently passed continuing resolution ("CR"). The CR forces D.C., six months into its already-approved budget for FY25, to revert to outdated FY24 spending levels, effectively blocking the District from spending over \$1 billion in locally raised tax revenue.<sup>1</sup> The CR treats D.C. like a federal agency, not like a home to 700,000 residents – more than the populations of Vermont and Wyoming and comparable to states like Alaska and North Dakota. The

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<sup>1</sup> Rebecca Turco and Christian Flores, "Proposed federal bill threatens to slash DC budget by \$1.1 billion, officials say" *ABC 7 News - WJLA*, March 11, 2025, <https://wjla.com/news/local/proposed-federal-bill-cut-dc-budget-1-billion-city-mayor-bowser-gop-government-shutdown-washington-district-taxpayer-dollars-locally-funded-expenditures-police-fire-department-wmata-metro-funds-money>; Meagan Flynn and Jenny Gathright, "Entire D.C. government urges GOP to reverse course on 'devastating' \$1B cuts," *Washington Post*, March 10, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/03/10/dc-gop-budget-cuts-continuing-resolution/>; Mike Debonis, "DC officials protest House stopgap, claiming billion-dollar impact on city," *Politico*, March 10, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/03/10/congress/dc-budget-stopgap-muriel-bowser-00222268>;

consequences of the CR's restrictions on the District of Columbia are severe, arbitrary, and entirely preventable.

According to D.C. government estimates, reverting to the prior fiscal year's budget requires a 16% reduction in remaining funds, which would require implementing overnight layoffs, furloughs, and hiring freezes, along with significant cuts across public education, public safety, housing supports, food access, health care programs, transit, environmental programs, sanitation and more.<sup>2</sup> If Congress fails to immediately pass the District of Columbia Local Funds Act of 2025, Washingtonians will have to grapple with significant across-the-board cuts including, but not limited to:

- \$358 million in cuts to public and charter education, which will jeopardize school operations and staff;<sup>3</sup>
- \$28 million in cuts to the Department of Human Services, which threatens vital support for unhoused and low-income residents;<sup>4</sup>
- \$42 million in cuts to the DC Fire and EMS Department;<sup>5</sup>
- \$600 million in cuts to projects for roads, bridges, sidewalks, alleys, road safety, WMATA funding, and more.<sup>6</sup>

We extend sincere gratitude to U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Chris Van Hollen for their bipartisan leadership in recognizing the significance of this preventable fiscal crisis and moving quickly to address it by spearheading the District of Columbia Local Funds Act of 2025 (S 1077).<sup>7</sup> Let us be clear: this is not about reducing the federal deficit. **Prohibiting the District's access to local tax dollars does not save the federal government a single dollar.** The Congressional Budget Office verifies this in their recent analysis of the DC Local Funds Act of 2025, noting that the local funds implicated in this legislation "are not recorded on the federal budget" and that "enacting S 1077 would have no effect on the federal budget."<sup>8</sup> The District's budget is balanced, largely locally taxpayer funded, and has already been approved by Congress, as required by law. Failing to fix this problem immediately will – for no good reason – haphazardly destabilize core, local D.C. government operations and devastate essential services

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Meagan Flynn, "GOP spending bill would lead to \$1 billion in D.C. cuts, city officials say," *Washington Post*, March 9, 2025, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/03/09/dc-budget-congress-house-republicans-continuing-resolution/>; Mark Seagraves, Gina Cook, et al., "Federal bill would cut DC budget by \$1 billion, force layoffs, officials say," *NBC Washington*, March 10, 2025, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/federal-spending-bill-cut-dc-budget-1-billion/3863004/>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Martin Austerhuhle, "Senate votes to spare D.C. from dramatic budget cuts," *51st News*, <https://51st.news/senate-votes-to-spare-dc-from-dramatic-budget-cuts/>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Frank Thorp V, Scott Wong, et al., "Senate passes bill that seeks to keep D.C. government's use of local tax dollars intact" *NBC News*, March 14, 2025, [https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senate-passes-bill-seeks-keep-dc-governments-use-local-tax-dollars-int-r\\_cna196542](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senate-passes-bill-seeks-keep-dc-governments-use-local-tax-dollars-int-r_cna196542)

<sup>8</sup> Phillip L. Swagel, "S. 1077, District of Columbia Local Funds Act, 2025," *Congressional Budget Office*, March 24, 2025, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61262#legislative-info>

for 700,000 residents, 44% of whom are Black.<sup>9</sup> The failure to immediately act amounts to fiscal sabotage, not fiscal responsibility. Furthermore, the intangible costs of such an abrupt, significant reduction across the local government and public sectors would be more significant than could be quantified in dollars and cents.<sup>10</sup>

**This is a moment for decisive leadership in the U.S. House.** There is no informed or principled reason to delay action on this bill. Given the unanimous Senate support, the straightforward nature of the legislative fix, and the urgent need to avert a completely preventable fiscal catastrophe in the District, all 197 undersigned organizations and the undersigned elected officials strongly urge U.S. House leadership to immediately bring the District of Columbia Local Funds Act of 2025 to the floor for a vote under suspension of the rules. We also implore U.S. representatives across the aisle to vote in favor of this critical fix. It is worth noting that President Trump also endorses the District of Columbia Local Funds Act of 2025 and similarly calls for House Leadership to bring this bill to the floor for a vote immediately.<sup>11</sup> The longer the House waits to pass this legislation, the greater the human, operational, and economic cost for the District of Columbia.

Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

*Elected Official Signatories:*

1. Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Gawain Kripke (3C07)
2. Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Trupti J. Patel (2A03)
3. Manassas City Councilman Darryl Morre
4. United States Senator Ankit Jain (D-D.C.)
5. Ward 5 State Board of Education Representative - Robert Henderson
6. Ward 8 State Board of Education Representative - LaJoy Johnson-Law

*Organizational Signatories:*

1. 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers-East
2. 7DrumCity
3. A Little Piece of Light
4. Able South Carolina, Inc.
5. ACLU of American University
6. Adas Israel Congregation
7. Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc.

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<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Quick Facts: District of Columbia," <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/DC/PST045223>

<sup>10</sup>Mark Seagraves, Gina Cook, et al., "Federal bill would cut DC budget by \$1 billion, force layoffs, officials say," *NBC Washington*.

<sup>11</sup> Jake Traylor, Katherine Tully-McManus, "Trump wants House to 'get on board' with Washington budget fix," *Politico*, March 19, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/19/trump-wants-the-dc-budget-fix-approved-and-is-willing-to-apply-pressure-if-needed-00239545>

8. Advocating 4 Kids, Inc
9. AIDS Action Baltimore
10. AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
11. AIDS United
12. All Souls Church Unitarian of Washington, D.C.
13. American Academy of HIV Medicine
14. American Baptist Home Mission Societies
15. American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
16. Amica Center
17. Ana Isabel Photography LLC
18. APLA Health
19. Arizona Jews for Justice
20. Asbury United Methodist Church – DC
21. ATU Local 689
22. Ayuda
23. Babe City Records
24. Bishop Second District AME Church
25. Black Cat, DC
26. Black Swan Academy
27. Book Busy, LLC
28. Bread for the City
29. Burroughs Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization
30. Center for Common Ground
31. Chaplin's DC
32. Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
33. Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression
34. Clean Elections Texas
35. Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
36. Clove & Ginger LLC
37. Coalition for DC Public Schools and Communities
38. College and Community Fellowship
39. Color Of Change
40. Council for Court Excellence
41. Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ
42. Damien Ministries
43. DC Action
44. DC Appleseed Center for Law & Justice
45. DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
46. DC Democratic Party
47. DC Democratic State Committee
48. DC Downtown Cluster of Congregations
49. DC Fiscal Policy Institute
50. DC for Democracy
51. DC Jobs with Justice

52. DC Justice Lab
53. DC Latino Caucus (DCLC)
54. DC LSAT (Local School Advisory Team) Collective
55. DC Statehood Green Party
56. DC Vote
57. Democracy 21
58. Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
59. Disciples Center for Public Witness (Disciples of Christ)
60. DMV Disability and Senior Community Group
61. DMV Jewish Labor Bund
62. Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, Washington DC
63. Dorothy Height Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization
64. Drug Policy Alliance
65. EmpowerEd
66. Equality California
67. Equality Chamber of Commerce | DC Metro
68. Ernst & Young
69. Green Spaces for DC
70. Fair Budget Coalition
71. Faithful Democracy
72. Feminist Majority Foundation
73. First Congregational United Church of Christ, DC
74. Foundry United Methodist Church
75. Free DC
76. Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop
77. Friendly Design Co.
78. Friends Committee on National Legislation
79. Friends Meeting of Washington
80. Fundrise
81. G III
82. GKO Investments, LLC
83. GLAA
84. Grassroots DC
85. Greater Greater Washington
86. Hardy Middle School Parent Teacher Organization
87. Harriet's Wildest Dreams
88. HIPS
89. Horace Mann Elementary School Parent Teacher Association
90. Housing Works
91. Humane Intelligence
92. IfNotNow DC
93. IFPTE Local 70 - Nonprofit Professional Employees Union
94. Janney LSAT Parents
95. Jewish Voice for Peace – DC Metro

96. Jews United for Justice
97. John Lewis Elementary Parent, Staff, and Community Organization (PSCO)
98. John Wesley AMEZ Church
99. Justice Policy Institute
100. K&K Analytics, LLC
101. Kid Power, Inc.
102. Laiyasworld
103. Langdon Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization
104. Langlely Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization
105. League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia
106. League of Women Voters of the United States
107. Legal Action Center
108. Legal Aid DC
109. LIFT-DC
110. LOGOmotion, Inc.
111. Long Live GoGo
112. Love & Carrots
113. Mann Elementary School Parent Teacher Association
114. Mariana Strategies
115. Maury Elementary School Parent Teacher Association
116. MD/DC Alliance for Retired Americans
117. Metro DC Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women
118. Metro DC Community Center
119. Metro DC Democratic Socialists of America
120. Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid
121. Miriam's Kitchen
122. Mirror Memoirs
123. Mommieactivist and Sons
124. Montgomery County Jewish Collective
125. MPR Architecture
126. MVS Educational Services, LLC
127. NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
128. National Cannabis Festival
129. National Domestic Workers Alliance, DMV Chapter
130. National Employment Law Project
131. National Health Law Program
132. National Organization for Women
133. National Organization for Women, DC Chapter
134. National Working Positive Coalition
135. National Youth Justice Network
136. National Black Justice Collective (NBJC)
137. Neighbors for Justice
138. Neighbors United for DC Statehood
139. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

140. New Synagogue Project
141. Nigerian Center
142. Old City Market and Oven
143. Open City Advocates
144. Pax Christi USA
145. Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ - Washington, D.C.
146. People For the American Way
147. Positive Force DC
148. Prevention Access Campaign
149. Pride at Work - DC Chapter
150. Raise One Teach One Dalaneo Martin Foundation
151. Refining Resilience Therapy, LLC
152. Reframe Health and Justice
153. Reparation Education Project
154. Rising Organizers
155. Riverside Baptist Church DC
156. Robinson & Associates
157. ROC-DC
158. Seaton Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization
159. Second Look Project
160. Senior High Alliance of Parents, Principals and Educators (S.H.A.P.P.E)
161. Shepherd Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization
162. Ship and Anchor LLC
163. Sierra Club
164. SMYAL
165. Southern Poverty Law Center
166. Spaces of Pride
167. Spur Local
168. Sunrise Movement DC
169. T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
170. Talos Ventures LLC
171. Task Force for Democracy
172. Teamsters Local 639
173. Temple Sinai DC
174. The Action Lab, Northeastern University
175. The Community Church of Washington, DC
176. The Festival Center
177. The Hill is Home
178. The National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens
179. The Pennsylvania Ave Baptist Church
180. The Reunion Project
181. The Sentencing Project
182. Transformational Acupuncture, LLC
183. Transformative Justice Coalition

184. Treatment Action Group
185. Trellis Climate
186. Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
187. United Church of Christ
188. Uri L'Tzedek: Orthodox Social Justice movement
189. Walking to Fix Our Democracy
190. Wanda Alston Foundation
191. Ward 3 Democratic Committee
192. Ward 4 Faith Leaders
193. Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
194. Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
195. Washington Teachers' Union
196. We Are Family Senior Outreach Network
197. Who Speaks For Me?