



THE CONCORD  
COALITION



Association of Young Americans



GEN NEXT



Americans for  
Generational  
Equity

*Re: 2009 Stimulus Package and the National Debt*

Dear Young Members of Congress:

We are writing to express our concern over the growing national debt. In recent weeks, President Obama has made statements about the possibility of annual trillion dollar budget deficits over the next few years. Absent from the discussions among policy makers is the long term implications of such high annual deficits.

Our country already has a national debt of more than \$10 Trillion and on the horizon, the problem is substantially worse. With healthcare costs growing faster than inflation, the population aging and a budget process that leaves the majority of government spending - entitlement programs - on auto pilot, the United States is on a unsustainable fiscal path. At the same time, powerful and entrenched interest groups have so much at stake in maintaining the status quo that government remains unable or unwilling to meaningfully discuss how to be good stewards of our national resources and wealth. According to the 2008 Financial Report of the United States Government, if you consider the present value of promised future benefits - entitlement programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, the nation is \$56 Trillion in debt.

In 2008, simply paying the interest on the debt accounted for more than 8% of the entire budget. That's \$249 billion that couldn't be refunded through tax cuts, spent on veterans' benefits, or invested in education and alternative energies. We have been and are continuing to consume more than we produce and our borrowing is stealing resources from the future. Today's young people and future generations of Americans are being left an enormous and growing debt, which they had no role in creating and no ability to oppose.

Even with the present economic recession, elected officials must address these systemic fiscal problems and consider the long-term implications of runaway debt. It is critical that the entire country engage in a discussion about our priorities, our finite resources and what, other than a mountain of debt, we plan to leave our children and grandchildren. As the youngest members of Congress we ask that you embrace your role as the stewards of the future for young Americans and future generations.

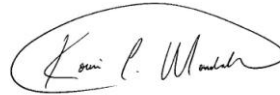
While we understand there are no easy answers to the many economic problems our country faces and that budget deficits can be beneficial in certain circumstances, we write today to urge you to seriously consider the impact of such large annual budget deficits and the growing national debt on the long term fiscal stability of our country, along with the burden they place on younger generations. We invite you to share with us your plan to address the significant projected budget deficits and the growing national

debt. We will be circulating this letter, along with your responses, through our collective organizations and networks. We are planning a "Day on the Hill" in the coming months and very much would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and/or your staff to discuss these issues in person.

Sincerely,



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