

Now is the time to ACT! Join the NDDay of Action on December 10.

This July, you signed [a letter](#) urging Congress and the President to work together to avoid sequestration—deep, across the board cuts to core programs and services scheduled to take effect January 2, 2013 if policymakers fail to act. These “nondefense discretionary” or “NDD” programs are core functions government provides for the benefit of all, including medical and scientific research; education and job training; infrastructure; public safety and law enforcement; public health; weather monitoring and environmental protection; natural and cultural resources; housing and social services; and international relations. Every day these programs support economic growth and strengthen the safety and security of every American in every state and community across the nation.

Conversations about how to address the “fiscal cliff” and avoid sequestration are happening NOW. It’s hard to believe, but it’s possible that a plan to avoid sequestration could actually be *worse* for NDD programs than sequestration itself.

We need your help educating policymakers that NDD programs have already done their part to reduce the deficit, as enacted through the bipartisan Budget Control Act of August 2011. And that any plan to reduce the deficit should include no more cuts to NDD.

Please engage your grassroots in an NDDay of Action on December 10.

The key message: we need **a balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not include further cuts to nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs**. These programs have already contributed to deficit reduction through the bipartisan Budget Control Act (BCA) and prior spending cuts.

Note: We advise a slight pivot in message, away from avoiding “sequestration” to avoiding “continued cuts” for two reasons: (1) we don’t want to suggest that anything is better than sequestration (because it may not be for NDD) and (2) we want to remind policymakers that NDD programs have already been cut by emphasizing “continued.”

We strongly urge the community to do whatever possible on December 10, including:

- 1) Calls and emails to congressional offices
- 2) Letters to policymakers, reflecting the updated message
- 3) Events, e.g., press events, visits to congressional offices in D.C. and back home
- 4) Editorials in national and local media outlets
- 5) Social media, with #NoMoreCuts (to your hashtag, e.g., #education, #publichealth, #science, etc.)

Tweets are a great way of getting our message out to policymakers. We have prepared tips and sample Tweets for you to use on Twitter and Facebook, available [here](#). Please make sure you include the Twitter handle of the Member of Congress you are tweeting in your message. This ensures that the member will get a notification of being “mentioned” in your message and will see what you’ve sent. For a complete list of members and their twitter handles as well as other

social media accounts, please see these [House](#) & [Senate](#) lists. If you are new to Twitter, this great [Twitter 101 Guide](#) from the folks at Half in Ten/Center for American Progress is recommended. If you have any questions feel free to contact Jared Solomon at 202-657-0679 or jareds@firstfocus.net.

We have more resources to help advocates engage in the deficit reduction conversation available through our NDD Grassroots Toolkit [here](#), including a brief video about sequestration, FAQs, sample editorials, etc. Through this site you can also access “impact examples” that detail the impact of continued cuts—and cuts made to date—on NDD programs and the people they serve.

Thank you for your help promoting this effort. We greatly appreciate whatever you can do to tell policymakers #NoMoreCuts to these important programs and services on our NDDay of Action. If we all speak with one voice December 10, we have a greater chance of being heard.