

July 20, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama, Leader Reid, Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of over 1.88 million students on 115 campuses, we write to express our deep concern about the ramifications of failing to reach a bipartisan deal to raise the debt limit.

This is not about politics. Our country and our future are in serious trouble, and the clock is ticking. Without an immediate increase in the debt ceiling and a long-term reduction of budget deficits, our weak economy will suffer even more. That means higher interest rates, fewer jobs and more debt. And trust us, we already have too few jobs and too much debt.

We urge you to work together to find a solution to this problem in an aggressive yet balanced way. We support the framework laid out by the bipartisan fiscal commission and the efforts of the bipartisan group of leaders in the Senate as a realistic basis from which to work. Shared sacrifice and common purpose must underpin whatever compromise is reached.

As our study of history tells us, big things get done when leaders of both parties do them together – from establishing social security to reforming welfare. We now call on you to find the common ground necessary to put our fiscal house in order.

While you may disagree over which party shoulders more blame for our current situation, one thing is certain – young people will shoulder the consequences of gridlock during a time that requires bold action.

Your decisions will determine what kind of country we will inherit. So please hear us clearly: It is time to put the politics aside. It is time to put the parties aside. It is time to put the pledges aside. Now is the time to do what is right for the country. As fiscal commission co-chairs Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson have said – now, *right now*, is the moment of the truth.

We not only face a potential crisis of credit, but also one of confidence in government. Your responsibilities as the President and members of Congress must come before your political parties' interest. In your negotiations, think about the next generation – not just the next election.

This is about *our* future, *our* education, *our* jobs, *our* families, *our* dreams, *our* country. But all we can do about it right now is to rely on *your* leadership. We ask you find the courage to lead. It is why you are there.

Sincerely,
~ 100 Student Body Presidents