

DATE: February 2011
TO: Members of the (state, chamber)
FROM: State Director name
RE: Federal Budget Letter to U.S. Congress

Please join me in signing this letter to Members of Congress regarding the federal budget and spending priorities. As a State Director for WiLL, the Women Legislators' Lobby, I am joining women across the nation to urge Congress to adopt a federal budget that reflects the values and best interests of the American people.

The President's FY12 budget request freezes discretionary spending on non-security programs at FY10 levels while allowing the military budget to rise. We face historic budgeting challenges this year. Our states revenues are down, but we still must find ways to invest in our long term success.

Spending on outdated or ineffective weapons systems does NOT make us safer from the threats we face today. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has stated that the Pentagon should not be exempted from belt tightening and nearly every commission that studied that deficit last year agreed that we can safely reduce military spending and that we *must* do so if we want to get spending under control. We cannot expect every other department to find savings in their budgets and exclude the Department of Defense.

Our message urges Congress to affirmatively include Pentagon spending in the national debate about budget cuts. In these times, we cannot afford to refuse to even discuss reductions to the portion of the budget that makes up of 56% of the government's discretionary spending every year.

As state legislators, we should take action and respond quickly to the President's budget request. Join me by signing on to the attached letter to Members of Congress today!

SIGNATURE

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