

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Republican Leader Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker McCarthy and Republican Leader McConnell:

From the outset, President Biden adopted a “whole of government” approach to push the Left’s agenda through regulatory power.<sup>1</sup> This full-scale strategy is indifferent to procedural safeguards and transparency, and backdoor regulation has become a hallmark of the current administration. At the direction of President Biden, federal bureaucrats have infiltrated the lives of Americans through a historic expansion of government.

At a time when states have a record-high number of ineligible enrollees in the Medicaid program, the Biden administration has proposed a rule to weaken oversight.<sup>2</sup> It would prohibit states from conducting more frequent eligibility reviews and, per the administration’s own estimate, would add \$100 billion in new costs within five years.<sup>3</sup> The administration also adjusted food stamp benefits that will increase costs by nearly \$20 billion, all while avoiding public input by bypassing notice and comment.<sup>4</sup> As for President Biden’s climate agenda, a new proposed rule would force companies to disclose “climate risk” information to the SEC.<sup>5</sup> And in an unprecedented move, the administration initiated a plan for student loan bailouts through a press release, modifying the plan along the way in order to evade potential legal challenges.<sup>6-7</sup> Without a rule on the books, the bailouts could cost taxpayers more than \$1 trillion.<sup>8</sup>

When the executive branch plans massive expansions of government, the elected representatives of the American people must be able to weigh in before businesses and consumers are weighed down by costly regulations.

States like Florida and Wisconsin have passed laws modeled on a federal proposal, known as the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act, or REINS Act.<sup>9-10</sup> Under the REINS Act, a proposed rule with a hefty price tag cannot be implemented without securing legislative approval.

Regulations can impose costs and raise prices, operating like a hidden tax on the public. The current administration has tried to use regulation to conceal excessive federal spending, but runaway inflation has family budgets stretched to the breaking point. Americans are now paying the price for President Biden’s regulatory spending spree, and the REINS Act is the solution.<sup>11</sup>

Nameless, faceless bureaucrats control far too much of American life. Though the sheer volume of regulations is overwhelming, and Congress cannot review and approve every single regulation, it can protect the American people from the most burdensome.

The REINS Act would not altogether reverse the runaway regulatory state, but it would help revive the voice of the American people in D.C. by restoring political accountability for major federal policies. We urge you to stand as a bulwark against out-of-control regulators.

Respectfully,

**Tarren Bragdon**  
President and CEO  
Foundation for Government Accountability

**Paul Teller**  
Executive Director  
Advancing American Freedom

**Stephanie Smith**  
President and CEO  
Alabama Policy Institute

**Bethany Marcum**  
CEO  
Alaska Policy Forum

**James Carter**  
Director  
Center for American Prosperity  
America First Policy Institute

**Gentry Collins**  
CEO  
American Free Enterprise Chamber of  
Commerce

**Brent Gardner**  
Chief Government Affairs Officer  
Americans for Prosperity

**Grover Norquist**  
President  
Americans for Tax Reform

**Scot Mussi**  
President and Executive Director  
Arizona Free Enterprise Club

**Jimmy Greene**  
CEO  
Associated Builders and Contractors of  
Michigan

**Justin Owen**  
President and CEO  
Beacon Impact

**Jameson Taylor, PhD**  
President  
Center for Political Renewal

**Matt Stiers**  
Executive Director  
Christian Business Partnership of Ohio

**David McIntosh**  
President  
Club for Growth

**Charles Mitchell**  
President and CEO  
Commonwealth Foundation

**Kent Lassman**  
President and CEO  
Competitive Enterprise Institute

**Ed Corrigan**  
President and CEO  
Conservative Partnership Institute

**Hunter Tower**  
East Coast Director  
Freedom Foundation

**Adam Brandon**  
President  
FreedomWorks

**Joe Kent**  
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**Fred Birnbaum**  
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Idaho Freedom Foundation and  
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**Chris Hagenow**  
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Texas Conservative Coalition Research  
Institute

**Christian N. Braunlich**  
President and CEO  
Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy

**Scott Manley**  
Executive Vice President, Government  
Relations  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

Cc:

The Honorable Steve Scalise  
House Majority Leader

The Honorable Tom Emmer  
House Majority Whip

**Grace-Marie Turner**  
President  
Galen Institute

**Ryan Walker**  
Vice President, Government Relations  
Heritage Action

**Heather R. Higgins**  
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**Alan R. Ostergren**  
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Kirkwood Institute

**Tony Woodlief**  
Senior Executive Vice President  
State Policy Network

**David Balat**  
Director, Right on Healthcare  
Texas Public Policy Foundation

**Kyle Koenen**  
Policy Director  
Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Republican Whip

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chair, Senate Republican Conference  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Energy and Natural Resources

The Honorable Elise Stefanik  
Chair, House Republican Conference

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
Chair, Senate Republican Policy Committee  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Small  
Business and Entrepreneurship

The Honorable Gary Palmer  
Chair, House Republican Policy Committee

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Vice Chair, Senate Republican Conference  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public Works

The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson  
Chair, House Committee on Agriculture

The Honorable John Boozman  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Appropriations

The Honorable Mike Rogers  
Chair, House Committee on Armed Services

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Armed Services

The Honorable Jodey Arrington  
Chair, House Committee on Budget

The Honorable Tim Scott  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chair, House Committee on Education and  
the Workforce

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Budget

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Chair, House Committee on Energy and  
Commerce

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Patrick McHenry  
Chair, House Committee on Financial  
Services

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Finance

The Honorable Michael McCaul  
Chair, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Jim Risch  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Foreign Relations

The Honorable Mark Green  
Chair, House Committee on Homeland  
Security

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

The Honorable Bryan Steil  
Chair, House Committee on House  
Administration

\*The Honorable Rand Paul  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Chair, House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Indian Affairs

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chair, House Committee on Natural  
Resources

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the  
Judiciary

The Honorable James Comer  
Chair, House Committee on Oversight and  
Accountability

The Honorable Deb Fischer  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Rules  
and Administration

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair, House Committee on Rules

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Veterans' Affairs

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Chair, House Committee on Science, Space  
and Technology

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Ranking Member, Senate Select Committee on  
Intelligence

The Honorable Roger Williams  
Chair, House Committee on Small Business

The Honorable Mike Braun  
Ranking Member, Senate Special Committee  
on Aging

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Chair, House Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure

The Honorable Mike Bost  
Chair, House Committee on Veterans'  
Affairs

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chair, House Committee on Ways and  
Means

The Honorable Mike Turner  
Chair, House Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence

\*The Honorable Kat Cammack

\*Senator Rand Paul and Representative Kat Cammack are the lead sponsors of the REINS Act (H.R. 277; S.184).

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<sup>1</sup> The White House, "Fact sheet: President Biden takes executive actions to tackle the climate crisis at home and abroad, create jobs, and restore scientific integrity across federal government" (2021), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/27/fact-sheet-president-biden-takes-executive-actions-to-tackle-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad-create-jobs-and-restore-scientific-integrity-across-federal-government/>.

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<sup>2</sup> Sam Adolphsen et al., “Comment on proposed streamlining Medicaid eligibility rule,” Opportunity Solutions Project (2022), <https://solutionsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/OSP-Comment-On-Proposed-Streamlining-Medicaid-Eligibility-Rule-10-28-2022.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Food and Nutrition Service, “Estimated Increase in SNAP Benefits – FY 2022,” U.S. Department of Agriculture (2021), [https://www.fns.usda.gov/TFP/state\\_table](https://www.fns.usda.gov/TFP/state_table).

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, “The enhancement and standardization of climate-related disclosures for investors,” 87 FR 21334 (2022), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/04/11/2022-06342/the-enhancement-and-standardization-of-climate-related-disclosures-for-investors>.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Education, “Biden-Harris administration announces final student loan pause extension through December 31 and targeted debt cancellation to smooth transition to repayment” (Aug. 24, 2022), <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-final-student-loan-pause-extension-through-december-31-and-targeted-debt-cancellation-smooth-transition-repayment>.

<sup>7</sup> Emily Bremer, “Final agency action on student loan forgiveness: Whether, when, and how will (and should) it come?” *Yale Journal on Regulation* (2022), <https://www.yalejreg.com/nc/final-agency-action-on-student-loan-forgiveness-whether-when-and-how-will-and-should-it-come/>.

<sup>8</sup> Junlei Chen and Kent Smetters, “The Biden student loan forgiveness plan: Budgetary costs and distributional impact,” University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business 2022, <https://budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu/issues/2022/8/26/biden-student-loan-forgiveness>.

<sup>9</sup> Wis. Stat. § 227.139.

<sup>10</sup> Fla. Stat. § 120.541.

<sup>11</sup> Jonathan Ingram, Alli Fick, and Haley Holik, “Congress must rein in President Biden’s regulatory spending spree to tame inflation,” *Foundation for Government Accountability* (2022), <https://thefga.org/paper/congress-must-rein-spending-to-tame-inflation/>.