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Dear Friends,

Ever since President Obama took office in 2009, Republicans in Congress have cynically hoped to blame him for the economic consequences of their own program of cutting taxes for the rich while cutting services and safety nets for the working and middle class. Their latest attempt was to force the so-called "sequester" – a series of deep, arbitrary spending cuts across the board for domestic and defense programs – to take effect on March 1st. This will jeopardize crucial services and programs across almost every aspect of our society, including \$27 million in cuts to benefits for 9/11 first responders and victims under the Zadroga Law.¹ These cuts could cost another one million American jobs and throw our economy back into recession.²



Rep. Nadler discusses the devastating effects on New York communities that could result from GOP obstruction on urgent fiscal matters. Watch the video.

Effects of the GOP-imposed sequester will be devastating:

- Eliminating support for 1,600 victims of domestic violence in New York
- 4,300 New York children will be excluded from critical early childhood education
- 100,000 Americans would be forced out of housing and shelter programs
- 600,000 mothers and their children would be kicked out of nutrition programs

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Do you think Congress should find a balanced solution to these cuts that includes new revenue?

- <u>Yes</u>
- <u>No</u>
- <u>Unsure</u>

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Let me know where you stand on the issues. <u>Click here!</u>

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- Mental health services for 373,000 patients would be threatened
- 7,400 fewer patients will have access to lifesaving HIV medications
- 10,000 teacher jobs and up to 7,200 special ed positions could be in jeopardy
- Risks public health by threatening to cut 2,100 food inspections

Source: White House report³

Democrats in Congress have offered balanced proposals to prevent these catastrophic cuts by reducing spending responsibly while closing tax loopholes available to the wealthiest and large corporations. Unfortunately, the Republicans in Congress have been unwilling to compromise, instead offering up the same tired and false choice between cutting essential services and running the United States economy into the ground.

Let me be clear: I will not support any proposal that seeks to reduce our deficit by gutting critical services instead of asking the wealthiest to pay their fair share. Likewise, I will not vote for any bill that undermines our rock solid obligation to those who depend on Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid benefits. Instead, I will continue to fight for a balanced solution that protects the middle class and small businesses while encouraging job creation and economic growth. It's time for Republicans to put aside political brinksmanship and agree to reasonable solutions to our economic problems.

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Want to check out more of my work fighting for sensible solutions for the middle class? Make sure to follow me on <u>Twitter</u> as well as on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>YouTube</u>, and <u>Flickr</u> where you can see more of my work on these and many other issues.

Sincerely, Jewold Hadlen

(1) McFarland, Art. "Government cuts could affect Zadroga benefits." ABC 7, New York. February 25, 2013. Available: http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story? section=news/local/new york&id=9006655

(2) Adler, Loren and Shai Akaba. "The Sequester: What You Need to Know." Bipartisan Policy Center. February 22, 2013. Available: http://bipartisanpolicy.org/blog/2013/02/sequester-need-to-know

(3) "Impact of March 1st Cuts on Middle Class Families, Jobs and Economic Security: New York" Available: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/sequesterfactsheets/New-York.pdf

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