Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Last November, our country spoke loud and clear. The American people are demanding solutions from Washington and asking that bold and decisive action be taken to prevent another financial crisis.

At present, America's entitlement programs are in their last years of solvency. It is high time both parties come together to have a commonsense conversation to prevent the collapse of institutions on which millions of seniors rely on and save Medicare for our children and grandchildren. Inaction will mean Medicare becomes bankrupt and the reality that our generation may be the first in American history to leave the next worse off.

Clearly Washington is facing a great deal of challenges, but with these challenges come great opportunity. We are presented with the opportunity to reset the tone in Washington by ending the partisan bickering. We have all been guilty, at one time or another, of playing politics with key issues facing our country. As the freshman class, we have the opportunity to wipe the slate clean and fulfill the mandate set by the people to strengthen our country for future generations – not continue the petty politics we have seen in the past, which only creates an environment of stalemate.

Surely, we can all see the urgency in issues as important as care for retirees and the nation's long-term budget. In 2022, the CBO projects the debt will surpass 90 percent as a share of our economy and by 2025, every tax dollar will be spent paying for entitlements and interest on our debt. Mr. President, we do not have the luxury of waiting. History will judge us by whether we worked together to solve our country's problems or played politics to score points in the next election.

The Republicans have put forward what you called a "serious proposal" to deal with Medicare spending, which ensures Americans 55 and older will keep their current plans. Those 54 and younger will receive a list of guaranteed coverage options through Medicare so recipients are able to choose the best plan for their needs, rather than the government choosing for them -- reform based on ideas discussed by President Clinton's Medicare Commission over a decade ago. A week after its passage, Democrats began launching what the Chicago Tribune referred to as "Mediscare" attacks against Republicans. We ask that you stand above partisanship, condemn the disingenuous attacks and work with this Congress to reform spending on entitlement programs. Together, we can deal with the debt crisis now before it is insurmountable.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Last year, at the Republican retreat in Baltimore, you asked, "At what point can we have a serious conversation about Medicare and its long-term liability…or a serious conversation about budget and debt in which we're not simply trying to position ourselves politically?" You went on to say we cannot start these discussions by framing "who's to blame," who is "trying to hurt our senior citizens" or "how can we make the American people afraid of the other side." During the question and answer portion of the retreat, you honorably noted that these conversations are what you are "committed to doing." Mr. President, these were your words and now is the time to act.

As new members of Congress, we are committed to having a fact-based conversation immediately. Our mission must be about the next generation, not the next election – this is something we cannot lose sight of.

Will you join us to stop the political rhetoric, work to advance America's interests, and end this cycle of debt, deficits and indecision?

Sincerely,

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Diane Black
Member of Congress

Robert J. Dold
Member of Congress

Cory Gardner
Member of Congress

Tim Griffin
Member of Congress

Andy Harris
Member of Congress

Dennis Ross
Member of Congress

Bobby Schilling
Member of Congress

Todd Young
Member of Congress

Paul Gosar
Member of Congress

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress

Frank Guinta
Member of Congress

Tim Scott
Member of Congress

Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

Joe Walsh
Member of Congress

Sandy Adams
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem
Member of Congress

Reid Ribble
Member of Congress

Martha Roby
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

James Lankford
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Scott Rigell
Member of Congress

Billy Long
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress

Allen West
Member of Congress

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Tom Reed
Member of Congress

Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Jon Runyan
Member of Congress

Jeff Landry
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress