

Resolution Opposing Planned Sequestration Mandated by the Budget Control Act of 2011

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B in the District of Columbia fully understands and supports the need for fiscal responsibility and the tough choices that are required to achieve a balanced budget;

WHEREAS, Congress passed and the President signed the Budget Control Act of 2011, legislation that mandated across-the-board cuts, or sequestration, to both mandatory and discretionary spending if Congress failed to pass a deficit reduction bill by December 2011, and that these cuts will begin in 2013;

WHEREAS the Congressional Budget Office's Budget & Economic Outlook for FY2012 to FY2022 warns that failure to alter the currently scheduled federal tax and spending policy changes would "lead to economic conditions in 2013 that will probably be considered a recession";

WHEREAS, the Commission is concerned about the blunt nature of sequestration, particularly when one-third of non-defense discretionary spending is directed to state and local programs; 36 percent is directed to education; 28 percent to housing and community development; 18 percent to health and the environment; ten percent to workforce; and five percent to public safety and disaster response;

WHEREAS, the cuts scheduled to occur through sequestration will bring domestic discretionary funding well below historical levels as a share of the economy, forcing inevitable cuts to a number of critical local services and dramatic job losses for teachers, first responders, and health care workers;

WHEREAS, the Commission also shares the concern expressed by many of your congressional colleagues and industry stakeholders over the impact of sequestration on our military forces and national security;

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes the financial burden that across-the-board spending cuts would require just to meet the most emergent needs of our constituents;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia economy will be particularly vulnerable if sequestration proceeds, given the high proportion of federal employees who live in our city, the large number of DC-based businesses that contract with the federal government, and the unique connection between DC's budget and the federal budget; ;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission urges Congress to avoid sequestration by adopting a plan to achieve a bipartisan and balanced approach to deficit reduction that avoids the blunt instrument of across-the-board spending cuts and instead combines targeted spending cuts with additional revenue.

Adopted by a vote of ____ at a duly-noticed public meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission ____ on ____, 2012, with a quorum present of ____ commissioners.

[Name], Chair

Name, Secretary