

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

September 8, 2025

Dear Leader Schumer,

As Indivisible groups from across New York, we've seen first hand since January the devastating impact in our communities of Trump and Republicans' extreme MAGA agenda. The attacks on our healthcare, the stomping of our constitutional rights, and the authoritarian consolidation of power are only becoming more dangerous. The upcoming government shutdown deadline on September 30th is a critical opportunity for Senate Democrats to defend our communities, and go on offense against the extremism from Trump and Republicans. We cannot afford a business-as-usual approach.

We appreciate your life's dedication to serving New Yorkers, and we applaud Senate Democrats' ongoing efforts to thoroughly vet Trump's historically unfit nominees and force recorded votes on their confirmation. As Indivisibles have been calling for, Democrats must deploy every tool available to delay, disrupt, and defeat the MAGA agenda. Republicans are now complaining that Democrats refuse to rubber stamp Trump's nominees - a clear indication that fighting back works. We urge you to apply that lesson broadly, and in particular to the impending government funding deadline where Democratic votes will be necessary to avert a shutdown.

Back in March, you led ten Democrats to surrender a rare moment of leverage by voting to enable Republicans' extreme funding bill, which handed Trump and Musk a blank check to continue their power grab. You abandoned strong leadership by House Democrats, Sen. Patty Murray, and other stakeholders - including federal employee unions, litigators, and Indivisible groups - who clearly communicated the threats posed by the CR and their commitment to defeating it. That decision left Democrats divided and directionless. We called on you to step aside as Minority Leader because an opposition leader who refuses to stand up to Trump is a weakness our democracy cannot afford.

The government funding deadline looming before us presents a chance to take an alternate path. Indivisibles, and all New Yorkers, are looking to you to fight, draw bright red lines, and make clear that Democrats will use their leverage to shield the American people from the MAGA agenda of cruelty, hate, and harm. Republicans have slashed Medicaid, they are forcing rural hospital closures, they are canceling lifesaving medical research and vaccine funding, and they are barreling us towards huge cost increases for health insurance. Trump is currently rebranding the so-called "Big, Beautiful Bill," realizing that its contents and its devastating impact on anyone except the extraordinarily wealthy is extremely unpopular. If Democrats won't take this opportunity to fight for our health care, any tough talk during the negotiations or heading into 2026 will ring hollow.

While we are calling on Republicans to work with Democrats on bipartisan funding bills that restore healthcare and curb Trump's chaos, we need your support to make Republicans listen. When Democrats publicly commit to opposing any funding bill that cuts access to healthcare and promotes lawlessness, Republicans will be forced to compromise and Indivisibles in their districts can focus on holding them accountable. You've demonstrated that real oppositional tactics can work when it comes to slowing Trump's nominees. Now, it's time for an even bigger opportunity.

Specifically, as our senator and as the Senate Democratic Leader, we are calling on you to:

1. Immediately publicly commit that you will oppose any funding bill that continues Trump's healthcare cuts or funds his administration's lawlessness.
2. Unify the Senate Democratic caucus to do the same.

If Republicans are not ready to work with Democrats in a bipartisan manner to protect healthcare and the rule of law by September 30th, we support keeping the government open with a short-term, clean continuing resolution so that bipartisan negotiations can continue. Whereas if Donald Trump asks Congress for a blank check or if House Republicans try to pass more MAGA spending cuts that were written on a partisan basis, Senate Democrats must not give them bipartisan cover. You must not repeat the mistakes that were made in March by granting Democratic votes for Republican legislation without getting anything in return.

Our country urgently needs bold opposition leadership. We hope to see you drawing clear red lines that we can enthusiastically support in this upcoming funding fight.

Signed,

Ageless Activists

Bay Shore Babylon Women's Huddle

Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle

Bethlehem NY Indivisible

Brooklyn Resisters

Butternut Valley Indivisible

CCoHOPE Indivisible

Citizens' Response Network of Wayne County

City Island Indivisible

Colonie Indivisible

Cooperstown/Oneonta Indivisible

Democracy Forward Long Island

Downtown Nasty Women Social Group

Empire State Indivisible

Engage Long Island
Freedom Writers
Genesee Valley Indivisible
Greater Capital Region Progressive Action
Guilderland Indivisible
Hands Off Hudson Valley
Helderberg Indivisible
Hudson Valley Strong Indivisible
Indivisible ADK/Saratoga
Indivisible Albany
Indivisible Binghamton
Indivisible Brooklyn
Indivisible Cayuga
Indivisible Cherry Valley
Indivisible Columbia NY
Indivisible Corning Elmira
Indivisible Cortland County
Indivisible for Schoharie County
Indivisible LES
Indivisible Long Island
Indivisible Manhattan
Indivisible Mohawk Valley
Indivisible New Rochelle
Indivisible North Fork
Indivisible Onondaga County
Indivisible Plattsburgh
Indivisible Rochester NY
Indivisible Rockland
Indivisible Scarsdale
Indivisible Southern Tier
Indivisible Stephentown
Indivisible Tioga NY
Indivisible Tompkins
Indivisible Ulster
Indivisible Westchester
Indivisible Westside Monroe County NY
Indivisible YorktownNY
IndivisibleWeStand UWS
Inwood Indivisible

Larchmont/Mamaroneck Indivisible
Long Island Network for Change (LINC)
Mamaroneck Indivisible
Markers for Democracy
Mountain Top Progressives
Nassau Progressives
Northeast Queens Indivisible
Northwest Bronx Indivisible
NY21 South Indivisible Group
NY02 Indivisible
NYCD16/15-Indivisible
NYPAN Greene
Organize for Action WNY
Party With Purpose!
Progressive Schenectady
Putnam Progressives
Seniors Taking Action
Show Up LI
South Country Unites
Steuben-Allegany Indivisible
Suffolk Progressives
Together We Will Long Island
Together, Long Island
Troy Indivisible
U-Act (Ulster Activists)
We are On Sullivan
WeGOTR
Westchester Citizen Therapists Indivisible
Western Catskills Indivisible