

U.S. House of Representatives
Rep. Sharice L. Davids
Kansas Third District

December 18, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries,

As Congress works to finalize the Further Continuing Appropriations and Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2025, I write to express my concern regarding the inclusion of a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Members of Congress. I strongly urge you to remove this adjustment from the final legislation. Keeping the government open must remain our top priority, ensuring stability for all Americans who depend on its services.

Working families across Kansas and the nation are facing high costs on everything from groceries to gas, and they expect their representatives to stand with them in addressing these challenges — not prioritize our own pay increases. I'm serving in Congress to restore faith in the federal government and show Kansans that their voices matter. Including a COLA for Members of Congress in a bill as critical as this one undermines that mission and erodes trust in our ability to govern responsibly.

While this COLA should not be included, I would like to thank you for the inclusion of the one-year extension of the Farm Bill in this legislation. This critical extension, along with direct economic and disaster assistance for producers, provides certainty to Kansas farmers and ranchers, stabilizes prices for families, and avoids the dairy cliff. I look forward to continuing to work on a bipartisan Farm Bill reauthorization in the new year.

Additionally, I appreciate the inclusion of a year-round ethanol waiver, which helps lower gas prices and supports Kansas farmers. Efforts to cut prescription drug costs, fund community health clinics, and pass my bipartisan *CAREER Act* to address substance abuse in the workforce are also important steps included in the package that support our communities and reduce the economic pressures they face.

However, Member pay increases should not be in this piece of legislation. Our focus should be keeping the government open and providing necessary resources to those we serve. I urge you to prioritize the needs of everyday Americans and remove the COLA for Members of Congress from the final package.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your leadership in navigating these complex and critical issues. I look forward to continuing to work with you both to deliver results for the people of Kansas and the nation.

Sincerely,



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress