

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2017

The Honorable Pete Sessions
Chairman
Committee on Rules
H-312 The Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sessions:

We write to express our serious concerns regarding reports that you may once again decide to employ a deceptive legislative gimmick in order to avoid a clean up-or-down vote on funding for President Trump's border wall. We strongly object to this approach and urge you to allow the House to separately consider whether to include funding for the wall in H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act.

It has been reported that your Committee plans to approve a rule for the upcoming minibus defense spending bill that will include a self-executing provision adding \$1.6 billion in funding for new barriers on our southwest border. We strongly believe that this legislative maneuver would be inconsistent with the best traditions of the House. Instead of making a border wall amendment in order and allowing this body to work its will, a self-executing rule would enable Members to evade a vote on an issue of great national significance.

That's simply wrong. Not only is President Trump's border wall expensive and unnecessary, Members of Congress who care deeply about our national defense shouldn't be forced to decide between voting for this nonsensical proposal and voting to fund our military. More importantly, on such a momentous policy question, the American people deserve to know where their elected representatives stand.

Again, for these reasons, we strongly urge you to reconsider using a self-executing rule to add funding for a border wall that America doesn't need and can't afford.

Sincerely,

			
Ruben Gallego Member of Congress	Filemon Vela Member of Congress	Adriano Espaillat Member of Congress	Pete Aguilar Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez

Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Jim Costa

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

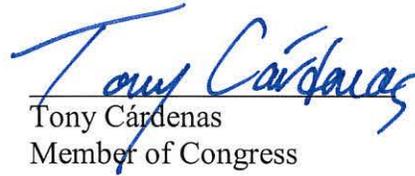
Ruben J. Kihuen

Ruben J. Kihuen
Member of Congress

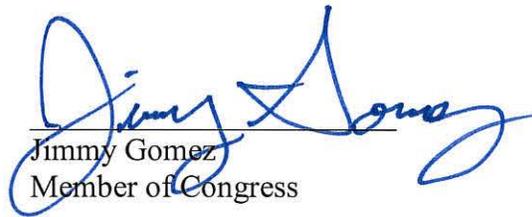

Albio Sires
Member of Congress


Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress


Lou Correa
Member of Congress


Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress


Darren Soto
Member of Congress


Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress