

DEFEND AMERICA *ACTION*

Dear President Trump:

Across America, families are being squeezed from every direction. Housing costs have put homeownership out of reach for millions. Health care premiums are skyrocketing after Republicans killed the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits. Gas prices, groceries, utilities, and basic necessities cost more than ever. The affordability crisis is the defining challenge facing our constituents, and they sent us to our state capitals to fight for relief.

That is why we are appalled that you are demanding \$1 billion in taxpayer money for a personal White House ballroom.

Your administration claims that your personal ballroom is a national security investment and a major priority. The reality is that it is a vanity project for the wealthiest man to ever occupy the Oval Office, and it will not put a single dollar back in the pockets of working families. It began as a privately funded \$200 million proposal, ballooned to \$400 million, and is now being billed to taxpayers at \$1 billion. A clear majority of Americans oppose it, by a two-to-one margin. Not one of your working constituents, not a nurse in Ohio, not a factory worker in Michigan, not a single mother in Arizona, will benefit from this ballroom. Only billionaire donors and well-connected insiders will ever stand inside.

While you have been busy demolishing the historic East Wing and ripping out Jacqueline Kennedy's Rose Garden, your party has slashed over \$1 trillion in public funding for health care, schools, and food assistance. You have told working families there is no money to help them. You have told them to make do with less.

But there is apparently no limit to what taxpayers must spend on your personal priorities.

That \$1 billion could replace more than 200,000 lead pipes in America's drinking water supply, protecting millions of families from lead poisoning. It could fund home heating and cooling assistance for around 1.5 million American families struggling with utility bills. It could cover a full year of food assistance for more than 400,000 working people, low-income families, and disabled Americans. It could buy over 200 million free school lunches for lower-income children, or eliminate waiting lists for WIC food assistance to infants and pregnant women entirely. The list goes on.

Those are choices that would make a real difference in people's lives. A gold-plated ballroom will not.

We call on you to reject this \$1 billion boondoggle and instead direct those resources toward the affordability crisis your policies have created. Govern for working families, Mr. President, not for yourself and your ultra-wealthy donors.

Signed,

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Sen. Cathy Kipp, Colorado
Rep. Manny Rutinel, Colorado
Rep. Rita Harris, Florida
Rep. Jasmine Clark, Georgia
Rep. Lisa Campbell, Georgia
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