In the coming fight over the debt ceiling, it is imperative that you vote to raise the debt limit to meet the costs of spending Congress has already approved through prior legislation. GOP House members are likely to spin this as constraining new spending, but raising the debt limit does not represent new spending. These are investments -- promises to the American people -- that Congress has already made. I strongly support the promises made to Americans through the American Rescue Plan Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, the PACT Act, Social Security, and Medicare.

The coming fight in Congress over the debt ceiling comes down to a fight over whether we should pay our bills on time. Failure to set the debt ceiling at the level necessary to meet borrowing needs would put the Treasury in a position where it is unable to pay the bills and send the government into default. Defaulting on federal payments could result in the U.S. failing to pay interest on or redeem bonds; missing payments for Social Security and salaries for federal civilian employees and the military; or temporarily suspending veterans' benefits, among other things.

We who are paying attention are aware that those are but the short-term consequences of default. The real consequences would come from the long-term damage to U.S. credit, which would inevitably add billions to the national debt. Those costs would result in increased taxes passed down to our children and grandchildren.

Do not play brinkmanship games with the national debt. Congress must move on to governing and get to work creating a better future for all Americans.