



Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr  
*Chairman of the Board*

Dr. Charles Steele Jr  
*President/CEO*

Date: May 19, 2023

To: SCLC Chapter Presidents

From: Dr. Charles Steele, Jr.

RE: Urgent Matter – Debt Ceiling Battle

Dear SCLC Members,

I wanted to bring a very urgent matter to your attention and ask that you act immediately!

As you may know, the federal government is faced with the impending need to extend the government's ability to borrow money to fund our country's activities, also known as raising the debt ceiling.

While this is a regular occurrence, usually done with little fanfare, this year, the radicals in Congress have decided to force President Biden to agree to \$1 trillion in budget cuts to raise the ceiling.

As is always the case with elected officials who don't have our best interests at heart or have malice towards us, these Members of Congress want to force cuts on programs that help the poor, underserved, and minorities. I do not believe this is right! In keeping with the principles of the "Poor People's Campaign and Kingsian Economics, I am demanding Democrats, especially members of the Congressional Black Caucus, hold firm and vote no on any debt ceiling bill that cuts spending for those who need help.

As you well know, Black Americans receive very little from the government. We do not get our fair share of government contracts and are denied access to block grant spending to the states; we do not get federal grants and are generally left out of the economic largess of all federal expenditures.

Even the vast majority of Medicare and Social Security payments go to White Americans (roughly 75%), with African Americans receiving around 10%. In the meantime, we have lost the protections of the Voting Rights Act and much of the Civil Rights Act!

We must demand more! I'm asking each and every one of you to call your member of Congress and your Senators and demand a no vote on any debt ceiling limit increase that includes cuts to what little money we get from the government.

Dr. Charles Steele, Jr.  
President and CEO  
Southern Christian Leadership Conference