



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON
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**CHAIRMAN MENDELSON RESPONSE TO RELEASE OF CONGRESSMAN
BIGGS' BILLS TO CUT FUNDS TO DC JUSTICE SYSTEM**

WASHINGTON, DC – Today Congressman Andy Biggs (R-AZ) released a portion of the text of Republican proposals to cut federal spending. Although the focus is the federal debt cap, the proposals will significantly cut funds to public safety agencies in the District.

In response, DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson released the following statement:

“The Congressman’s proposal would financially cripple the justice system of the District,” Mendelson said. “Cutting funding to our federal partners at the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), Public Defender Service, and the Courts, is not how one makes the District safe, as Republican rhetoric has trumpeted nationally.

“More alarming, Congressman Biggs’ bills would also cut the federal Emergency Planning and Security Fund (EPSF) – a “defund” move that would make it nearly impossible for the Metropolitan Police Department to perform its duties. Don’t scold the District for being soft on crime and then hamstringing the police.”

“When we testified on the Hill last month, Councilmember Charles Allen and I made the point repeatedly that if the House Republicans truly care about public safety, they need to get *more* resources to the justice system, not less.”