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## **ROCKEFELLER VOTES FOR COMPROMISE DEBT DEAL TO PREVENT ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Jay Rockefeller issued the following statement today voting in favor of the House-Senate compromise debt ceiling and deficit reduction plan:

“This plan is far from perfect and it is not the bill I would have written. But if we don’t pass it, our nation will default and our economy will fall into an even worse recession. Default would cost jobs, slash people’s retirement savings, and raise interest rates on loans and credit cards. For too long this year, political gimmicks drove the debate about preventing a default. This plan is a compromise, and one that achieves the most important protections that I’ve advocated since day one. We blocked Republican efforts to drastically slash Medicaid for 402,000 West Virginians who can’t afford to lose health care. We stopped attempts to cut Social Security’s safety net for 272,000 West Virginia seniors on fixed incomes. We protected veterans’ benefits for 29,211 West Virginians who rely on them after they chose to put their country above all else. And we pushed back on Republican plans to cut Pell Grants, making it possible for about 35,000 West Virginians to afford to go to college each year. These are not small accomplishments. In coming months, I will keep fighting for these priorities and to make sure that future budget cuts are balanced and include shared sacrifice from the very wealthy.”

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