

[By Jessica Brady](#)

Rep. [Peter Welch](#) (D-Vt.) is advocating for a “clean” debt ceiling bill with just days to go until the nation hits a projected default deadline, even though a similar measure failed in May.

The legislation counts more than 100 co-sponsors, and Minority Leader [Nancy Pelosi](#) (D-Calif.), Minority Whip

[Steny Hoyer](#)

(D-Md.), Assistant Minority Leader

[James Clyburn](#)

(D-S.C.), Democratic Caucus Chairman

[John Larson](#)

(Conn.) and Democratic Caucus Vice Chairman

[Xavier Becerra](#)

(Calif.) signed on to a letter from Welch encouraging colleagues to support the measure, according to spokesman Scott Coriell.

The Vermont Democrat’s proposed \$2 trillion debt limit increase isn’t tied to a deficit reduction package, making it a non-starter for House Republicans. But Welch said he is nevertheless pressing ahead because “America is now on the doorstep of default.”

Almost two months ago, [House Republicans were unified in their opposition](#) against a stand-alone \$2.4 trillion debt limit increase that was sponsored by Ways and Means Chairman

[Dave Camp](#)

(R-Mich.). Welch blasted Republicans at the time, calling the measure a “transparently political ploy” because it had no chance of passing. Still, he and 96 other Democrats voted in favor of the bill.

With less than a week until the Tuesday deadline and no clear path toward a debt ceiling and deficit reduction package, Welch maintained that the House should again vote on raising the debt ceiling alone.

“While we fully support continued efforts to reach a bipartisan agreement to significantly reduce the deficit, we believe it is essential to have legislation available for immediate Congressional action that will prevent America’s looming default,” Welch wrote in a letter to colleagues. “Failing to do so will be catastrophic for our economy and for hard working American families, seniors, and businesses.”

A clean debt limit vote is just one alternative that was discussed at the Democrats’ Caucus meeting Wednesday. Clyburn floated the idea that President Barack Obama [should invoke the 14th Amendment](#) to raise the debt ceiling if Congress fails to do so. Obama has dismissed that approach, but Clyburn told colleagues that the president “ought to veto” any short-term extension, and “next to the veto message ought to be an executive order invoking the 14th Amendment.”