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Hi –

A few days ago there were reports of a plan to pass a federal budget on time, before Sept. 30th, by avoiding the most aggressively controversial issues. In particular that meant postponing any decisions on border-wall funding until after the election.

Imagine how surprised I wasn't when today #cheetoBenito threatened to shut down the government unless his ridiculous demands are met, including wall funding among other things.

This sort of hostage-taking is not to be tolerated. Do not negotiate with hostage-takers; it never works. Last year he took the DREAMers hostage. More recently he took asylum seekers' babies hostage. Now he threatens to take the federal government hostage. It's one atrocity after another. No more! This has got to stop! Now!

Congress should pass a reasonable bipartisan budget and dare him to veto it. Like most bullies, he is fundamentally a coward. He likes to pick on people who can't fight back, but when faced with anything resembling a fair fight he runs away. We know from Stormy Daniels that his behavior improves when he gets spanked.

Let's be clear: **No wall unless Mexico pays.** The campaign promises were explicit and emphatic. **No US funding for the wall.** Not now. Not ever. Not one red cent. It doesn't matter whether you are in favor of sensible spending priorities or human rights or security or all of the above; the wall is a stupid idea. No matter what you think the problem is, the wall is the wrong way to deal with it.

Yours truly,

*John L Denker*