

Irresponsible behavior

The time has come once again to raise the federal debt limit. I, like most people, am not comfortable with this, but I realize, like most level-headed economists, that we will suffer serious economic damage if we don't raise the limit. Which is why it is likely Republicans will try to obstruct the move. This isn't the first time this kind of action has been threatened.

Other examples include refusing to extend unemployment benefits at the end of last year to force tax cuts for wealthy Americans. Republicans brought the country to the brink of a government shutdown this year to force cuts to programs they do not agree with, a stand that led the country to a government shutdown in 1995.

The Republican House is willing to take actions that would threaten the welfare of our country or cause misery to a vulnerable group such as the unemployed to force unreasonable concessions from the Democrats.

In comparison, Democrats generally do not look for these opportunities. Republicans use this tactic most any time they can.

As a citizen, I would like to point out to the Republican House that the ends do not always justify the means, and there is such a thing as responsible behavior in politics.

Steve Bellman

Akron