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Rep. Steny Hoyer deserves praise for his comments earlier this week acknowledging that Democrats need to be willing to put Social Security and Medicare on the table as part of a comprehensive solution for our nation's debt problem.

To achieve the type of reasonable and responsible solution that our country needs, both Democrats and Republicans need to be willing to make compromises on areas that their core constituencies have long considered to be untouchable.

Congressman Hoyer has stepped forward and shown the type of practical political leadership that our country so desperately needs. Let's hope that his Washington colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join him to do what is best for our country's future.

Donald C. Fry, Baltimore

The writer is president and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Committee and member of the Fix the Debt Maryland Steering Committee.