



COMMITTEE FOR A RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL BUDGET

May 4, 2017

CHAIRMEN

MITCH DANIELS
LEON PANETTA
TIM PENNY

The Honorable Mike Enzi
Chairman
Senate Budget Committee
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diane Black
Chairman
House Budget Committee
B-234 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

PRESIDENT

MAYA MACGUINEAS

Dear Chairman Enzi and Chairman Black,

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The federal debt is currently higher as a share of the economy than any time since the end of World War II, and it is growing unsustainably.

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year 2018 budget resolution, we encourage you to focus on improving this unsustainable fiscal situation by including measures that will help to slow rather than accelerate the growth of the national debt.

Specifically, we recommend that you include reconciliation instructions to require deficit reduction from each authorizing committee. Reconciliation is a powerful tool and might represent the best hope to pass a debt reduction package.

In addition, we recommend that you use the budget to enforce fiscal discipline by including deficit-neutral reserve funds requiring all tax and spending priorities to be offset and providing strict enforcement of PAYGO. To prevent further debt increases, it is important to strengthen PAYGO rules – not to weaken them through waivers and exemptions.

While it is important to put forward a budget that proposes to reduce debt levels as a share of the economy, reaching any fiscal goal on paper is far less important than putting forward a credible process to actually achieve deficit reduction legislatively.

By included reconciliation instructions, deficit-neutral reserve funds, and strong PAYGO rules, your budget can demonstrate a serious commitment to addressing our massive debt.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you on a fiscally responsible budget resolution. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Maya MacGuineas
President, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget