



## COMMITTEE FOR A RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL BUDGET

Objective. Nonpartisan. Committed to fiscal responsibility.

# 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

### Budget Hawks in the News

## The Washington Post

Taken together, the tax cuts and new spending levels are expected to add more than \$5 trillion to the debt over the next decade, according to the **Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget**, a nonpartisan organization that advocates for budget discipline.

## The New York Times

“By 2020, we will spend more on interest than we do on kids, including education, food stamps and aid to families,” said **Marc Goldwein**, senior policy director at the **Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget**, a research and advocacy organization.

“ ”

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“Massive borrowing can create a one-time economic surge, but it is unlikely to translate into a sustained improvement in growth as it is not growing potential GDP,” the **Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget** warned after the new growth numbers were released.

# AP

“The budget numbers make very clear that the faster growth isn’t stopping the deficit from increasing,” said **Marc Goldwein**, senior policy director for the **Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget**, a group that advocates for lower deficits.

More debt and higher deficits not only harm the economy, they dip into the pocketbooks of average Americans, said **Maya MacGuineas**, president of the nonpartisan **Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget**.



### PROMINENT OP-EDS



**National debt is about to roar back to life as a pressing issue**

*Maya MacGuineas  
President*

## The Washington Post

**That entitlements can is getting heavier, and we’re running out of road**

*Mitch Daniels  
Co-Chair*



**As demagogues squawk, clock is ticking on Social Security**

*Marc Goldwein  
Senior Vice President*

**Congress faces challenging times for American fiscal responsibility**

*G. William Hoagland  
Board of Directors*

### TAX POLICY CENTER

**Instead Of Seeking Budget Process Reforms, Congress Should Cut Spending And Raise Taxes**

*Rudolph Penner  
Board of Directors*



## Budgeting for the Next Generation

When it comes to the federal budget, children are clearly not a high priority. Despite higher rates of poverty and more economic potential than older generations, children receive a smaller share of federal dollars and are burdened with a large share of the national debt. Over the past year, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget's Budgeting for the Next Generation project has investigated how children fare in the federal budget, demonstrated that the process itself is biased against spending on children, and presented a number of potential options to improve this treatment.

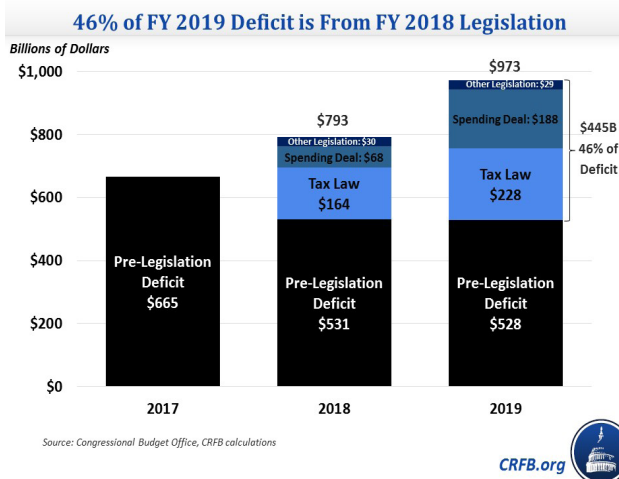
In October, we hosted a panel on Capitol Hill. Experts from the Heritage Foundation, Urban Institute, and First Focus discussed meaningful policy reforms and solutions.



(From left to right) Marc Goldwein moderates a panel discussion between Romina Boccia of the Heritage Foundation, Bruce Lesley of First Focus, and Heather Hahn of the Urban Institute.

## Fiscal Year 2018 Debt: \$2.4 Trillion

Throughout the year, our clear analysis has helped to untangle and communicate the important facts around important events. We analyzed the spending increase passed this spring, highlighted CBO's projections of trillion-dollar deficits returning by 2020, fact-checked claims about revenue after the tax bill, and dissected other legislation this year. Legislation passed this fiscal year added \$232 billion to FY 2018 deficits and over \$2.4 trillion over ten years.



## Widely Respected







## Engaging & Educating the Public

This past year, we traveled to 14 states around the country, participated in panels about our nation's debt and its political dysfunction, and conducted interactive Debt Fixer exercises with grassroots groups.



Former Congressmen Chris Gibson (R-NY) and Jim Slattery (D-KS) attended a conference for The Business Council of New York State in Albany. They discussed the correlation between our nation's unsustainable debt and political dysfunction.



Maya MacGuineas spoke before a crowd at Stanford University about the debt and dysfunctional political system. She addressed the continuation of "free lunch" economics and how fiscally responsible policies are often the least popular.

## Influence on the Hill

Throughout the year, we've been heard and cited on Capitol Hill. In February, we held our Better Budget Process Summit and brought together Members of Congress, Congressional staff, policy experts, members of the media, and others. Maya MacGuineas and Co-Chair Leon Panetta testified before Congressional committees five times, including making recommendations to the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform (JSC).

The JSC has the opportunity to make important improvements to the budget process, particularly given a number of problems with the use of the current process. We have also been actively meeting with staff and Members of the JSC as well as sending recommendations and technical expertise.



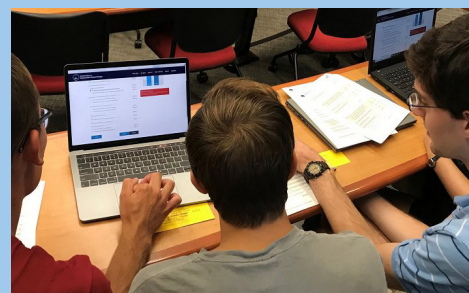
Co-Chair Leon Panetta and Maya MacGuineas testify before the Joint Select Committee.

## THE DEBT FIXER

The Committee has visited several colleges to educate bright young minds on the national debt through our online interactive Debt Fixer tool. Below are a few photos from several of our events.



About 200 students attended a recent Debt Fixer event at the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith. The event was covered extensively by the media.



Students at Furman University crowd around a computer during a Debt Fixer demonstration.



Zach Moller, senior policy analyst, visited the University of Delaware for a demonstration on October 23.



## 2018 Annual Dinner



On Thursday, September 13, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget hosted its 2018 Annual Dinner at the Liaison Hotel on Capitol Hill. We had an opportunity to pause, relax, and celebrate everyone in the budget community who has fought the good fiscal fight this year. Guests included a Cabinet Secretary, Members of Congress, high ranking Hill staff, corporate leaders, reporters, and top thinkers in the budget community.



*Leon Panetta emphasizes the importance of leadership in remarks at the dinner.*



*Maya MacGuineas moderates the evening's panel with guest speakers Doug Elmendorf, Major Garrett, and Cliff Young.*

## Second Phase of SSDI Solutions Initiative

Two years after publishing *SSDI Solutions: Ideas to Strengthen the Social Security Disability Insurance Program*, former Congressmen Jim McCrery (R-LA) and Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) announced a new effort to improve programs and policies for individuals with disabilities on in April.

In 2016, the *McCrery-Pomeroy SSDI Solutions Initiative* selected and published 12 peer-reviewed policy proposals intended to improve the SSDI program. Since then, it has inspired a number of legislative and administrative reform efforts.

In October, the Department of Labor announced that they were moving forward with one of the Initiative's proposals – a demonstration project designed to test new early interventions that help keep workers with disabilities in the labor force. This action was a major victory for us.



*Experts and stakeholders of the SSDI Solutions Initiative convened for a meeting on July 31.*



*Co-Chair Mitch Daniels emphasizes perseverance in the fight for fiscal responsibility.*



*Maya MacGuineas chats with HUD Secretary Ben Carson, Major Garrett of CBS News, and Co-Chair Tim Penny at the 2018 Annual Dinner.*



*Carol Cox Wait speaks at the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget's Annual Dinner after receiving the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award for Fiscal Responsibility.*