



AMERICA'S
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
ESTABLISHED 1971

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A nation's budget is a document that reflects its priorities. The House Republican Budget highlights priorities that are not reflective of what the majority of Americans need or deserve. The House Republican Budget for FY 2016 proposes deep cuts to vital programs like Medicare, Medicaid, education, job training, and transportation to pay for tax cuts that primarily benefit the wealthy. The most vulnerable in our nation have been hit hardest by the Great Recession and spending cuts.

The House Republican Budget doubles down on cuts implemented by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the sequester and proposes an additional \$759 billion in cuts on top of sequestration and more than \$4 trillion in largely unspecified cuts in mandatory spending. The Republican Budget repeals the Affordable Care Act, cuts Medicaid and turns it into a block grant, and it ends the Medicare guarantee, replacing Medicare as we know it with an insufficient voucher payment that leaves seniors on the hook to cover the difference.

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has a long history of submitting fiscally sound and morally responsible alternatives to budgets proposed by both Republican and Democratic presidents and House majorities. The CBC Alternative Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 continues this tradition by proposing a budget alternative that reduces the deficit and alleviates the harm inflicted by austerity measures in a responsible and fiscally sound manner.

Furthermore, the CBC FY 2016 Budget alternative emphasizes the CBC's commitment to eradicating poverty in America by increasing economic opportunities through significant and sustained investments in education, infrastructure, affordable housing, domestic manufacturing, small businesses, and job training. Additionally, the CBC Budget protects and enhances the social safety net that continues to save millions from the ravages of poverty. The CBC Budget proposes significant investments in these areas of the budget to further accelerate our economic recovery and ensure no community in America is left behind.

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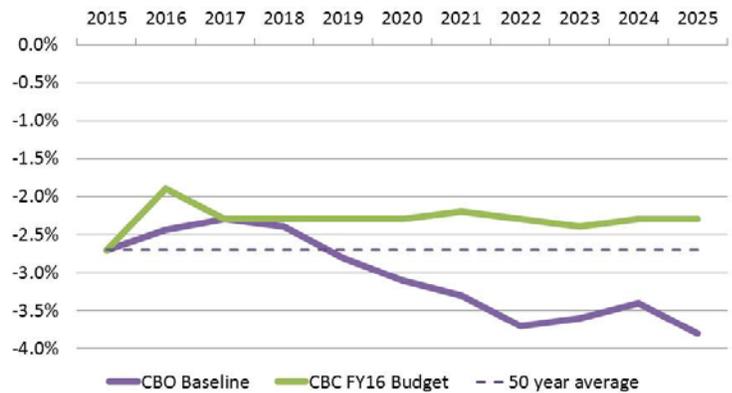
BASELINE AND POLICY

ASSUMPTIONS

The CBC budget uses the Congressional Budget Office's current law baseline, as adjusted in March 2015, which includes the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. Over the next decade, CBO projects the deficit to dip to \$467 billion in Fiscal Year 2016, but steadily climb to \$1,088 billion in Fiscal Year 2025.

CBC Budget Puts Nation on Sustainable Fiscal Path

(Annual Deficit as a Percent of GDP as compared to CBO's March 2015 Baseline)



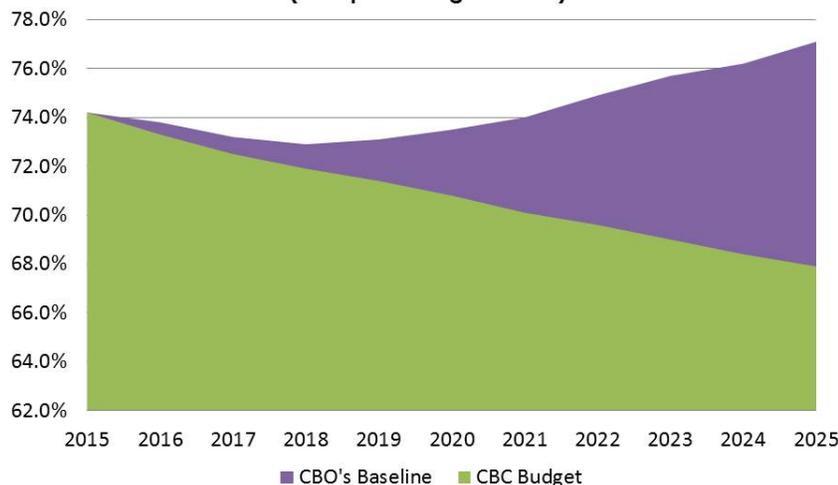
Source: Congressional Budget Office, Updated Budget Projections: 2015 to 2025 (March 2015); House Budget Committee - Democrats

Compared to CBO's current law baseline, the CBC budget reduces the deficit by approximately \$1.9 trillion over the next decade. As a percentage of GDP, the deficit in FY 2016 under the CBC Budget will be 1.9% of GDP and in FY 2025 it will be 2.3% – under the 50 year average of 2.7%. The total debt held by the public will fall to 67.9% of GDP by FY 2025.

These savings are derived from the additional revenue called for in the CBC budget, as well as other deficit reducing policies, such as adding a Public Option to the Affordable Care Act marketplaces, passing Comprehensive Immigration Reform, and ending perpetual spending in the Overseas Contingency Operations account.

Debt Held By the Public Falls Under CBC Budget

(as a percentage of GDP)

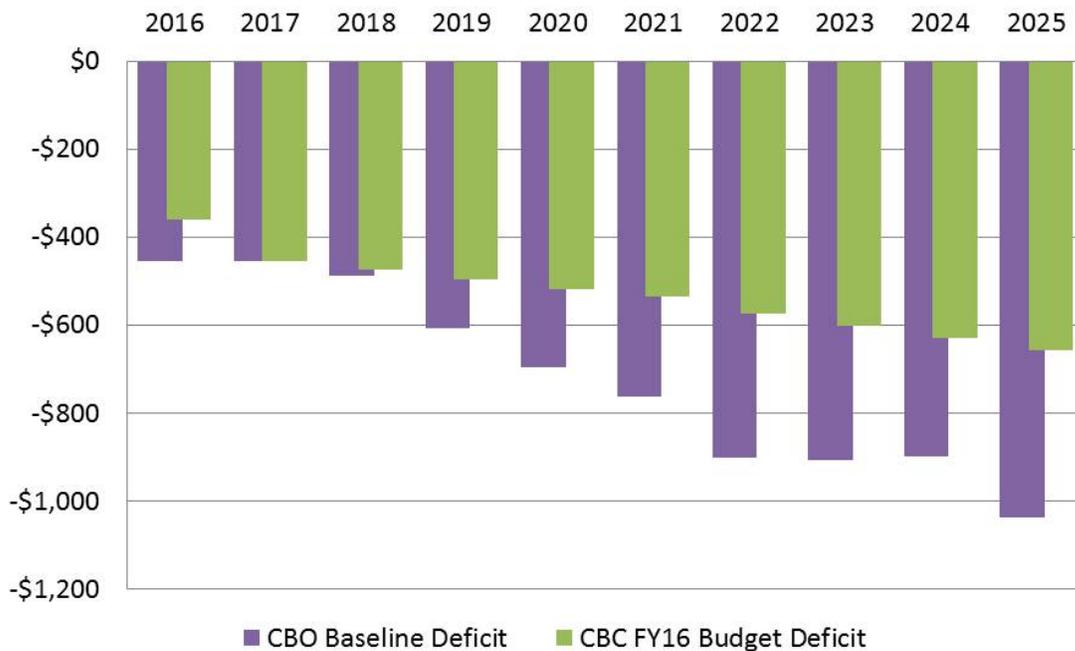


Source: Congressional Budget Office, Updated Budget Projections: 2015 to 2025 (March 2015); House Budget Committee - Democrats

TOP LINE OVERVIEW OF CBC FY 2016 BUDGET

	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY16-25
CBO Baseline Deficit (March 2015)	-455	-455	-489	-607	-696	-763	-900	-907	-899	-1,038	-7,209
CBC Budget											
Revenues	3,680	3,828	3,982	4,155	4,339	4,534	4,741	4,965	5,199	5,446	44,869
Outlays	4,039	4,282	4,454	4,652	4,859	5,069	5,316	5,567	5,828	6,104	50,170
Deficit	-359	-454	-472	-497	-520	-535	-575	-602	-629	-658	-5,301
Savings Over CBO Baseline	96	1	17	110	176	228	325	305	270	380	1,908
As Percent of GDP											
Revenues	19.5%	19.4%	19.2%	19.2%	19.2%	19.2%	19.1%	19.1%	19.2%	19.2%	
Outlays	21.4%	21.7%	21.5%	21.5%	21.5%	21.4%	21.4%	21.5%	21.5%	21.5%	
Deficit	-1.9%	-2.3%	-2.3%	-2.3%	-2.3%	-2.2%	-2.3%	-2.4%	-2.3%	-2.3%	
Debt Held by the Public	13807	14338	14876	15438	16016	16605	17232	17886	18566	19278	
Debt Held by the Public (as a % of GDP)	73.3%	72.5%	71.9%	71.4%	70.8%	70.1%	69.6%	69.0%	68.4%	67.9%	
Gross Domestic Product (CBO Baseline)	18849	19768	20696	21620	22618	23674	24771	25927	27143	28378	

CBC Budget Saves \$1.9 Trillion on the Deficit Over 10 years Compared to CBO's Baseline



Source: Congressional Budget Office, Updated Budget Projections: 2015 to 2025 (March 2015); House Budget Committee - Democrats

MAKING THE TAX CODE FAIRER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE NATION

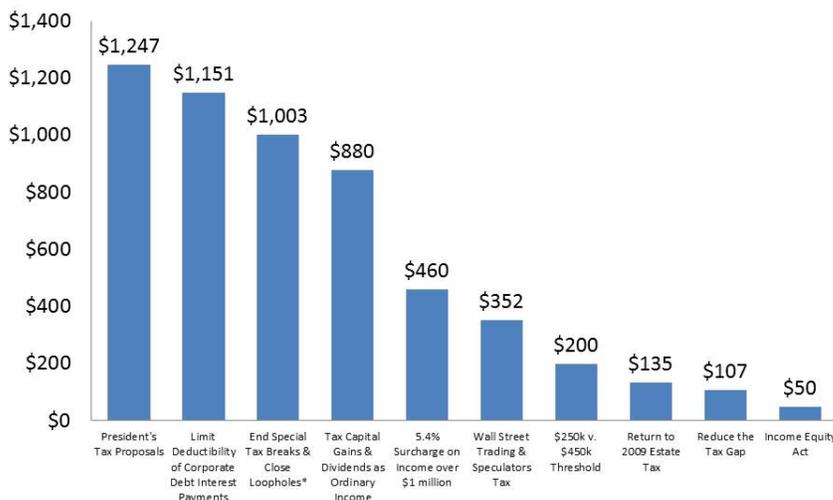
Even with the small revenue enhancements enacted through the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2013, revenues as a percentage of the nation's gross domestic product will still fall far short of the demands of the nation over the coming decade.

The CBC Budget proposes several options to make our tax code fairer and more able to meet the needs of the nation. All together, these options total approximately \$5.6 trillion in revenue enhancements over the next decade. However, the CBC Budget only directs the House Committee on Ways and

Means and the Senate Committee on Finance to find \$2.7 trillion in revenue enhancements.

Revenue Options

\$5.6 trillion revenue options – CBC Budget only calls for \$2.7 trillion in new revenue



The CBC Budget also assumes the continuation of certain tax policies that are scheduled to expire in 2017, including the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

Below is an explanation of the \$5.6 trillion revenue enhancement options Congress *could* use to reach the CBC Budget's \$2.7 trillion revenue enhancement goal.

President Obama's Tax Reform Proposals Included in his FY 2016 Budget: \$1.247 Trillion over 10 years

The President's FY 2016 Budget included many proposals to raise additional revenue to pay for the nation's priorities while also weeding out many special interest tax breaks that benefit large corporations and the wealthiest Americans. While the CBC Budget does not endorse all of the President's tax proposals, these proposals should at least be considered by Congress to achieve the CBC Budget's enhanced revenue target of \$2.7 trillion over 10 years.

Limit Deductibility of Corporate Debt Interest Payments: \$1.151 Trillion over 10-years

Under current law, corporations can take advantage of a tax preference that encourages debt-financed projects over projects financed by other means, such as equity financing. Interest payments on this debt are counted as a business expense and are paid from pre-tax income thus reducing a corporation's taxable income. According to the Economic Policy Institute, corporate financing achieved through debt becomes tax deductible whereas corporate financing through equity is not. There is no rational basis for this difference. This proposal does not eliminate corporate interest deductions. It only limits the use of debt financing by one-third to 25%, down from 35%, and making the preference an after-tax credit of 25% rather than a pre-tax expense. It should be noted that if this tax preference for corporate debt is completely eliminated, it would raise at least three times as much revenue than just limiting it to a 25% after-tax credit. Ultimately, limiting this tax preference would decrease systemic financial risk and free up additional capital for more productive, less speculative investment.

End Special Tax Breaks and Close Tax Loopholes: \$1 Trillion over 10-years

In a report released in 2013, the Center for American Progress identified numerous special tax breaks and tax loopholes that could save approximately \$1 trillion over the next decade.

Some of the special tax breaks and loopholes identified include: limiting extra deductions enjoyed by the wealthiest Americans (\$520 billion); closing international tax loopholes and other incentives that move American jobs overseas (\$168 billion); ending special tax breaks for inventory (\$67 billion); closing loopholes in estate and gift taxes (\$24 billion); closing the "carried interest" loophole for hedge funds and private equity fund managers (\$21 billion); eliminating the "S-Corporation" loophole (\$11 billion); denying the mortgage deduction for vacation homes and yachts (\$10 billion); closing the tax loophole for derivatives traders (\$3 billion); and eliminating the corporate jet loophole (\$3 billion).

Ending these tax breaks alone would be enough to cancel the economically devastating sequester and save the jobs of millions of hard-working Americans.

Tax Capital Gains and Dividends as Ordinary Income: \$880 Billion over 10-years

The tax code has long favored investment income over the money you get in your paycheck, but this hasn't always been the case. In the 1960s, when the top tax rate for earned income was 50%, capital gains and dividends were taxed at a top rate of 70%. However, today when a shareholder of a stock is paid a dividend, the most they are taxed is 20%.

When that shareholder decides to sell the stock and cash out, they still only pay 20% on their profits — the capital gains. A recent study conducted by Thomas Hungerford of the Congressional Research Service states that "[t]he single greatest driver of income inequality over a recent 15 year period was runaway income from capital gains and dividends." Wall Street investment bankers and hedge fund managers should pay the same tax rates on their income as the soldier fighting in Afghanistan or a public school teacher in Ohio pay on their income. The CBC Budget proposes ending this tax disparity to make the tax code fairer while also including safeguards that will still encourage average Americans to invest and save for their retirement.

5.4% Surcharge on Top Earners: \$460 Billion over 10-years

The wealthiest Americans disproportionately benefited the most from the Bush-era tax cuts and the federal government's 2008 bailout of some of the largest banks, investment firms, and corporations on Wall Street. According to the Congressional Budget Office, multi-millionaires have seen their average income rise much faster than the rest of the population. The average after-tax income of the top 1% of income earners has skyrocketed 275% between 1979 and 2007, while the average after-tax income for the middle class grew just under 40% during the same period. A family earning \$451,000 pays the same tax rate as a family earning \$10 million annually. That doesn't seem right or fair.

Enacting a surcharge of 5.4% of joint filers' adjusted gross income for that portion of their income exceeding \$1 million, similar to one included in the House-passed version of the America's Affordable Health Choices Act (H.R. 3962) in the 111th Congress, would generate approximately \$460 billion in additional revenue over the next decade.

Financial Speculation Tax: \$352 Billion over 10-years

Rampant and aggressive speculation on Wall Street helped create the Great Recession. While this small 0.25% financial speculation tax will not eliminate speculation or stave off a future financial crisis, it will, however, be an important disincentive to reel in short-term speculating and help build a more resilient financial sector. For example, on a \$10,000 stock transaction, the tax would only cost the investor an additional \$25 for the transaction. This modest tax would help our nation recoup from the devastating fiscal ramifications of the 2008 financial crisis by enhancing revenue that can be used to invest in our economy, accelerate our recovery and reduce our federal budget deficit.

The CBC Budget projects that a modest financial speculation tax of 0.25% on stock transactions would raise at least \$352 billion over the next decade.

\$250K v. \$450K Threshold: \$200 Billion over 10-years

A compromise in the American Taxpayer Relief Act retained the Bush-era tax cuts for that portion of a household's income greater than \$250,000 and up to \$450,000. Most Americans and the CBC Budget believe that the \$250,000 threshold is the more responsible cap for the Bush-era tax cuts. Lowering this threshold would enhance revenues by approximately \$200 billion over the next decade.

Return to 2009 Estate Tax: \$135 Billion over 10-years

The American Taxpayer Relief Act permanently fixed the federal estate tax at a 40% rate with an exemption of \$5 million per individual estate (\$10 million for joint estates). The exemption was also indexed to inflation saving multi-million dollar estates more and more each year. Many in Congress advocated for returning to the 2009 estate tax of 45 percent with an exemption, not indexed to inflation, of \$3.5 million per individual estate (\$7 million for joint estates). Returning to the 2009 estate tax will enhance revenues by approximately \$135 billion over the next decade.

Pass the Income Equity Act: \$50 Billion Over 10-years

There is a growing consensus that steeply rising income inequality is bad for our economy, bad for the workers who fail to share in the benefit of their increasing productivity and bad for the very social fabric that binds our nation together. While the American middle class hangs on by a thread through a "jobless recovery," corporations and investment banks are making record profits and again paying out record bonuses even while the pay of their workers is actually falling. What is worse is that those ordinary taxpayers are actually subsidizing this rising income inequality because of the nearly unlimited deductibility of executive pay packages. And some of those executives at these very corporations are actually leading the push for increased austerity in the budget debate, according to a [recent report](#) issued by the Institute for Policy Studies. The Income Equity Act limits the tax deductibility of executive compensation packages and is estimated to raise approximately \$50 billion over the next decade.

Reduce the "tax gap" through better enforcement: \$107 Billion over 10-years

In 2005, the U.S. Department of the Treasury estimated that the gross tax gap – the difference between taxes owed and taxes paid – totaled nearly \$345 billion, of which only \$55 billion was expected to be collected

as late payments or from tax enforcement. The National Treasury Employees Union estimated that \$31 in lost tax revenue can be collected for every \$1 invested in the IRS enforcement and collections apparatus. The CBC budget would invest \$325 million in the IRS enforcement and collections account annually with a net return to the Federal treasury of \$10.7 billion annually and \$107 billion over the next decade.

END THE THREAT OF SEQUESTRATION

The Republican House Majority's refusal to govern responsibly by raising the nation's debt ceiling in 2011 led to the enactment of the Budget Control Act of 2011. In order to force Congress to act on a long-term deficit reduction package, and to hopefully encourage Republicans to stop protecting tax breaks for corporations and millionaires, the Budget Control Act included a trigger of automatic across-the-board spending cuts through a process known as "sequestration." Despite strong opposition to the sequester, the House Republican Majority refused to take sequestration off the table and it was allowed to take effect for 2013.

In FY 2013, sequestration was devastating to programs that grow our economy and support our most vulnerable communities. Head Start programs had to scale back summer sessions, reduce class sizes, layoff instructors, and add more children to already lengthy waiting lists. Meals on Wheels programs across the nation had to cut back services, putting many low income seniors at risk of food insecurity. Child care assistance was slashed, forcing too many families out of quality child care programs. Federal funding for education, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, at both the K-12 and university levels were slashed, further widening the achievement gap and putting American students further behind students in other developed nations. Cuts in funding for advanced Research and Development programs will have long term impacts on the nation's ability to innovate and compete globally.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 alleviated sequestration for FY 2014 and FY 2015, but it largely achieved this by adding two years to the mandatory sequester in the out years. Unless Congress acts in 2015, sequestration will return in FY 2016 and significantly cut key functions of the federal government and threaten the economic gains made over the last six years. The CBC believes that sequestration should be taken off the table and cancelled. Of the \$2.7 trillion in revenue enhancements called for in the CBC Budget, approximately \$1 trillion should be used to cancel sequestration and increase funding for non-Defense discretionary programs.

While the CBC Budget cancels sequestration, it does not propose that National Defense (Function 050) spending return to pre-Budget Control Act levels. The CBC Budget adopts the National Defense spending levels proposed in the Democratic Budget Alternative.

TARGETED JOB CREATION

Our nation is still dealing with the lingering effects of the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was critical in turning our economy around. In the last 60 months, more than 12 million jobs in the private sector have been created and the national unemployment has slowly come down to 5.5%. Now, Congressional gridlock is threatening to reverse our modest economic gains. Further complicating our economic outlook, the recovery is not reaching every community at the same levels. The unemployment rate in the African American community remains double the national average at 10.5%. Even in times of economic growth, Blacks and Hispanics are more likely to be unemployed than the overall population across all levels of educational attainment. In the face of this, there are those in Congress who are relentlessly driving an austerity agenda that is holding back the full potential of our economic recovery and hurting communities across America. Their actions could lead us back into a recession unless action is taken to avert the sequester and target investments towards communities most affected by the recession.

The CBC Budget proposes a comprehensive jobs program totaling \$500 billion over three years that will accelerate our economic recovery and ensure that it reaches every community in America, while also investing in what we know will guarantee America's long-term economic competitiveness.

National Direct Job Creation Program (\$100 billion)

The CBC Budget also calls for a \$100 billion investment in a national direct job creation program administered by the Department of Labor. As proposed in Representative Conyers' "Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act," this program would put Americans to work restoring our communities through projects like painting and repairing schools and community centers, renovating parks and playgrounds, improving the energy efficiency of our homes and businesses, tutoring children, and expanding access to high-speed Internet services.

Funds will be distributed by formula through the Department of Labor to larger cities, and to states to be passed through to smaller localities and rural areas. Local elected officials, who are closest to our communities and needs on the ground, would work with community groups and labor leaders to identify critical projects and connect workers to projects right away. This \$100 billion investment would directly create 2 million jobs and also indirectly create over 800,000 private sector jobs.

School Modernization (\$50 billion)

Many of our nation's public schools were built decades ago and are in desperate need of repair and modernization. Many school districts, especially in poorer rural and urban areas simply have not been able to afford to make these improvements, especially considering ongoing budget cuts that states and localities are still being forced to make. The CBC Budget sets aside \$50 billion targeted at our nation's poorest school district to help repair and modernizes tens of thousands of schools. Funds could be used for a range of emergency repair and renovation projects, greening and energy efficiency upgrades, asbestos abatement and removal, and modernization efforts to build new science and computer labs and to upgrade technology in our schools.

Preserving Teacher and First Responder Jobs (\$50 billion)

While the private sector has produced more than 8.8 million jobs in the last 48 months, budget cuts at the state and local government have been a persistent fiscal drag on our economy. The CBC Budget sets aside \$50 billion to help state and local government prevent any additional layoffs of teachers and first responders. These funds can also be used to allow localities to hire additional teachers and first responders. Teachers are critical to educating the next generation of American leaders in government, science, medicine and technology. The federal government should do everything in its power to ensure that students are afforded the individual attention and small classroom sizes that help foster strong educational outcomes. Additionally, local law enforcement and first responders keep our communities safe and preventing any additional layoffs must be a top priority of the federal government.

Immediate Investments in our Nation's Infrastructure (\$230 billion)

The American Society of Civil Engineers has given our nation's infrastructure a D in their most recent report card. MAP-21, the recent Surface Transportation Act reauthorization, was dramatically underfunded when it comes to addressing our nation's infrastructure needs. Increasing infrastructure spending to help modernize our nation's roads, bridges, and tunnels, as well as to build new and improve existing commuter/ public transportation systems will help put back to work hundreds of thousands of American construction workers.

Also, the American Recovery Act included a significant down payment on an American high speed rail network. Unfortunately, investments in high speed rail have tapered off and the paltry level of funding that has been made available pushes off the availability of a true American high speed rail network for decades. Another large, but sustained, investment in high speed rail will help create jobs and make these networks available

sooner and foster economic development along these high speed rail corridors.

Rebuilding America's Neighborhoods (\$50 billion)

The housing foreclosure crisis continues to hurt neighborhoods across the nation. The CBC Budget includes significant funding to help these communities rebuild and to help families facing foreclosure stay in their homes.

Job Training Programs (\$13 billion)

The long-term unemployment rate remains relatively high compared to previous recessions. Ensuring that these Americans have access to technical training, career services, graduate and certificate programs, and other job training programs so that they can be competitive in the workforce again is critical to solving the long-term unemployment problem. The CBC Budget proposes an additional \$13 billion towards these job training programs.

Summer Jobs Program (\$7 billion)

Temporary summer jobs have been a proven method of bringing down unemployment and infusing the economy with additional economic activity. Many of these jobs will be filled by young people who will immediately put the money back into the economy through consumer spending. This will also have the added benefit that these young people are staying out of trouble and contributing to their communities.

ERADICATING POVERTY & PROTECTING THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET

During an economic downturn, the importance of having a “Social Safety Net” net cannot be overstated. For communities of color, these programs prevent a recession from being an economic disaster. While many associate the social safety net programs with Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare there are quite a few other programs that are just as essential. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Head Start are among the other federally funded programs that are critical to struggling communities and addressing poverty. The CBC supports the goal of developing a national strategy to eliminate poverty, with the initial goal of cutting poverty in half in ten years, and extending equitable access to economic opportunity to all Americans.

The 113th Congress made massive cuts to critical domestic programs that millions of American families rely on. The FY 2016 Republican Budget proposes an additional \$759 billion in cuts to the non-defense discretionary budget on top of the sequester and more than \$4 trillion in cuts to mandatory spending. These draconian cuts significantly impact key programs that make up the social safety net. This is not how we should reduce our deficits, and these cuts will not help create new jobs, or grow our economy. Rather, priority must be given to creating a national poverty strategy to maximize effective coordination and oversight across agencies and achieve a true unity of programs focused on reducing and eliminating poverty in America. Improving coordination and streamlining benefit and service delivery can improve and extend the reach of every federal dollar to fight poverty. We must remove obstacles that prevent the most vulnerable Americans from taking advantage of economic and educational opportunities that can assist them in moving up the economic ladder of opportunity to join the middle class and reach the American Dream.

The CBC Budget protects these critical domestic programs from any additional spending cuts and invests more on these programs above the spending caps enacted by the Budget Control Act.

The CBC Budget highlights the following programs and initiatives that will have a significant impact on reducing and eliminating poverty in America:

Affordable & Quality Child Care for Working Families

Too many low-income families lack access to any child care program, much less a high-quality and affordable one. Even when low-income families do have access, it’s often unaffordable, forcing some of them to choose between paying for food, clothes, heat, or child care. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, families living in poverty spend an average of

30% of their income on child care, compared with 18% for families earning between 100% and 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).¹ The CBC Budget adapts a multi-pronged, multi-generational approach to improving child care access and childhood education, by strengthening and making added investments to both the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Head Start. The goals are twofold – ensuring that parents have access to quality child care while they work and provide for their families while simultaneously also ensuring that children receive high quality early education to put them on a path to success. Research compiled by the National Institute of Health shows that children in care with good quality standards have better cognitive development than those in lower-quality care, including fewer behavioral problems, increased school readiness and improved language use and comprehension.² Enhanced funding for child care program improvements will increase equality of care provided in the child care setting and increase access to quality programs. The CBC Budget also recommends allowing eligibility determinations for CCDBG to be set at 12 month intervals, thus improving the continuity of the program and synching the eligibility determination time frame to those used in Head Start and preschool programs which deem typically children eligible for the entire school year. Not to mention that the improvements that the CBC Budget makes in the child care system are popular. A recent report released by Center for American Progress showed that over 85% of Americans – including 77% of Republicans – support expanding access to child care programs.

Reviving the TANF Emergency Fund

Passed during the Great Recession, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) included funding for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Fund (EF) in order to help states cover the costs of creating new or expanding existing subsidized employment programs. Thirty-nine states as well as the District of Columbia used over \$1 billion to place more than 260,000 low-income adults and youth in temporary jobs. These subsidized jobs programs, which placed individuals in positions in both the public and private sectors, bridged the gap during a time when the workforce could not accommodate all the jobseekers. The Economic Mobility Corporation recently conducted a retrospective study on these subsidized job opportunities and found the programs to be very successful in both creating jobs that would have not existed otherwise and increasing

¹ <http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/p70-135.pdf>

² https://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/documents/seccyd_06.pdf

earnings for workers. These programs were shown to be particularly valuable in targeting the long-term unemployed and teaching new skills to those who had struggled to find work in their fields.³

The problem of long-term unemployment has not gone away. There are still 3.8 million Americans that have been jobless for 27 weeks or longer and lack of employment opportunities can and often does relegate a family to poverty. While some states have continued funding subsidized jobs programs in the same vein as what was done with the ARRA funds, refunding the TANF Contingency Fund as a flexible and innovative employment fund that states could use to continue to provide subsidized jobs or otherwise invest in evidence-based employment programs that significantly increase the job prospects of people receiving or eligible for TANF would help create jobs for those whom our recovery has left behind.

Raise the Federal Minimum Wage

The federal minimum wage has remained stagnant for far too long while the cost of living continues to rise. The federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour equates to a mere \$15,080 per year for a full-time worker. This is not enough to provide economic security for a worker, especially as health costs, rents, and other prices continue to rise, and it certainly does not give an individual a fair shot at lifting oneself out of poverty. An increase in the federal minimum wage will provide America's lowest-paid workers with an urgently needed boost. Low earnings is one of the biggest contributors to income inequality and those who are working hard day in and day out at minimum wage jobs should be earning enough to take care of themselves and their families. Increasing the federal minimum wage will ensure that companies are paying their workers a living wage especially as the largest low-wage employers, like big name fast food chains are enjoying strong profit margins.

Additionally, increases in the federal minimum wage will put money directly into the economy since the money will be immediately spent on basic needs. Research conducted by the Economic Policy Institute has shown that raising the federal minimum wage would generate more than \$22 billion in new economic activity.⁴ This is an important first step towards establishing a living wage, and a win-win for both the American family and the American economy.

³ <http://economicmobilitycorp.org/uploads/stimulating-opportunity-full-report.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.epi.org/publication/raising-federal-minimum-wage-to-1010/>

Protecting and Strengthening SNAP

The CBC strongly supports protecting and strengthening SNAP and opposes any proposals to cap or reduce funding, restrict eligibility or reduce benefits. For four decades, SNAP has received strong bipartisan support and is the nation's first line of defense against hunger and alleviating poverty, helping to ensure that vulnerable families in our nation have a stable source of food. SNAP is an important cornerstone of the nation's nutrition safety net. It reaches key vulnerable populations – in an average month in FY 2011, 76 percent of SNAP households included a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person, and those households received 83 percent of the benefits. Research has long shown and lines at food pantries have long demonstrated that benefit levels for SNAP are too low. A recent report by the prestigious Institute of Medicine (IOM) reaffirmed that point. Rather than weaken this proven-successful program, the CBC supports ensuring that benefit levels are sufficient for qualifying households to purchase a nutritionally adequate diet.

Due to the comprehensive approach taken by the CBC Budget to reduce poverty and increase economic opportunity, it is estimated that upfront SNAP costs will actually be offset with a corresponding increase in the federal minimum wage. A recent Center for American Progress study found that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage reduces SNAP enrollment by between 2.4 percent and 3.2 percent and reduces program expenditures by an estimated 1.9 percent.⁵ These savings could then be reinvested into the SNAP program to improve outreach, streamline enrollment, and make other improvements.

Improving Retirement Security

Social Security currently replaces only 40 percent of pre-retirement earnings for a low earner retiring at age 62 and over half of workers have less than \$32,000 in retirement savings. Additionally, most employers have shifted from defined benefit pensions to 401(k) type savings accounts that do not guarantee a benefit. Moreover, many low wage workers can barely afford to make ends meet, let alone start thinking about their retirement. This has led to extreme retirement insecurity, particularly in low-income communities. The CBC Budget supports strong protections for workers' retirement funds while broadening access to financial literacy programs so that families understand the importance of investing and understand how to invest in their future. Mostly importantly, the CBC Budget preserves the guaranteed Social Security benefit that many low-income families rely on in their older years.

⁵ <http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/MinWage-report.pdf>

Protecting and Strengthening Social Security and Medicare

Social Security and Medicare are two of the nation's most important and essential programs giving millions of senior citizens piece of mind in their retirement. Before Social Security was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935, over half of America's seniors lacked sufficient income to be self-supporting. And before Medicare was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965, only 50 percent of seniors had health insurance and 35 percent lived in poverty. These programs combined have improved the lives of America's seniors and have kept millions out of poverty.

The CBC opposes any changes to these programs that would end these guaranteed benefits or dramatically alter their commitment to America's seniors. The CBC strongly believes any savings derived from changes to these programs should be used to extend their solvency – not to reduce the deficit or pay for tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. The CBC strongly believes that the focus should not be on how can we cut Social Security and Medicare, but how can we improve these programs.

For example, calculating Social Security cost-of-living-adjustments (COLA) using the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) would be a significant improvement to Social Security. CPI-E would be a more accurate assessment of the changing costs of products and services utilized more by senior citizen consumers. Under the current CPI-W formula, the purchasing power of a senior's Social Security check is essentially chipped away each year since it doesn't keep pace with medical costs, prescription drug costs, or energy costs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, from December 1982 through December 2011, CPI-E rose at an annual average rate of 3.1 percent, compared with increases of 2.9 percent for CPI-W. This could potentially be paid for by reforming how Social Security is financed. Approximately 82% of income (the first \$113,700 of earned income) is currently taxed for the purposes of financing Social Security, down from 90% in 1982. Reforming Social Security financing to capture more income could both offset the cost of improving benefits and extend the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund.

There are clearly ways we can protect seniors, improve benefits and also extend the solvency of these vital programs.

The CBC sees the importance of supporting the “Social Safety Net” programs more than ever. One of the most important parts of the CBC Budget is that it protects all the safety net programs from the hysteria of debt reduction. By eliminating the sequester and widening the tax base,

reforms can be done in a sensible and targeted way that does not devastate the programs or greatly decrease benefits. The other effective and efficient safety net programs are simply protected from the harsh cuts that follow the calls for austerity. The CBC Budget continues to prove that the dilemma between economic security assistance and our nation's fiscal health is a false choice.

Targeting Resources Through the 10-20-30 Formula

To be more efficient in the use of our federal resources, the Congressional Black Caucus advocates for the use of the 10-20-30 policy for federal spending. This language requires that at least 10 percent of the federal funds in certain accounts be directed to certain areas that have had a poverty rate of 20 percent for the last 30 years. This non-partisan proposal will ensure that federal resources are actually reaching communities most in need to improve the economic and social conditions in these distressed communities that have long struggled with persistent poverty.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

In 1964, the Supreme Court noted in *Wesberry v. Saunders*, “No right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live. Other rights, even the most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined.” While this is certainly true, there is an unfortunate history in our country of blocking access to the ballot box for minorities. For this reason, Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Voting Rights Act contains several important provisions; however, the pre-clearance provision in Section 5 is the essence of the law’s protections. Section 5 requires states and jurisdictions with a documented history of discrimination to submit changes to their election laws or procedures to the U.S. Department of Justice for approval. This process is commonly referred to as pre-clearance. Those states and areas that were initially covered by Section 5 were selected “the old-fashioned way — they earned it.” The purpose of Section 5 is not to punish states, but simply to stop a discriminatory scheme before it ever goes into effect.

Another important section of the law is Section 2, which prohibits voting practices or procedures that have the intent or effect of discriminating based on race, color or language. Section 2 empowers the federal government or private citizens to bring an action in a court of law to stop a discriminatory practice. Under a Section 2 claim, a court would be authorized to extend or “bail in” Section 5 pre-clearance requirements to the violating jurisdiction.

Unfortunately, in 2013, the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder* struck down the coverage formula, essentially dismantling a fundamental voter protection of the Voting Rights Act. The court stated that the current coverage formula was not “grounded in current conditions.” With this decision, voters in the states and local jurisdictions with a long history of voter discrimination are no longer protected by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

In the wake of the 2010 elections and post-*Shelby*, there has been an explosion of states that have considered or passed election laws that disproportionately disenfranchise minorities, seniors, students, and low-income individuals. The CBC understands why it is so critical for Congress to pass legislation to respond to the *Shelby* decision and appropriately update the Voting Rights Act to ensure that no one’s right to vote is infringed.

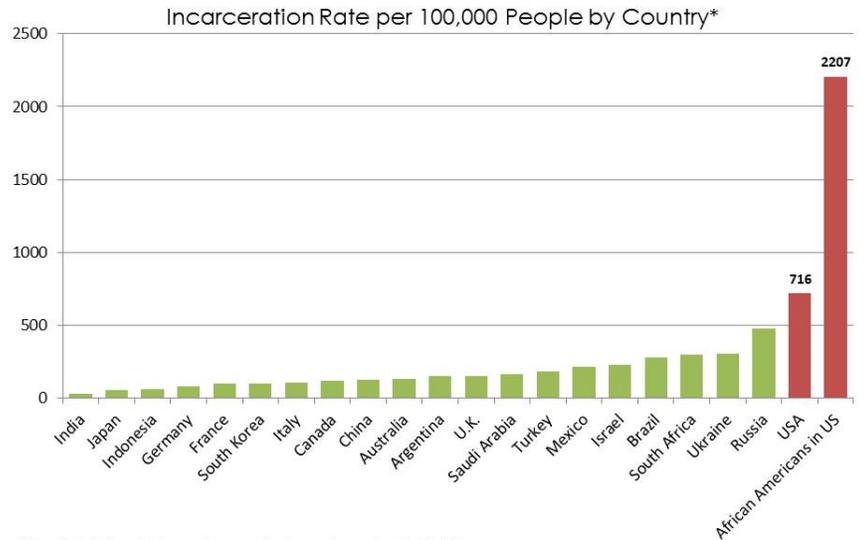
However, in light of Congressional inaction to even take up a bipartisan proposal to restore key provisions of the Voting Rights Act, it is of paramount importance that the Department of Justice have sufficient resources to ensure

that they are able to pursue cases utilizing their Section 2 authority under the Voting Rights Act to ensure voter rights are still protected. The CBC Budget ensures that the Justice Department has the necessary resources to protect the primary right in a democracy – the right to vote.

ENDING THE CRADLE-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

Congress must come together and pass legislation to reform our nation's broken criminal justice system. For far too long, government officials have chosen to play politics with criminal justice policy by enacting so-called 'tough on crime' slogans such as 'three strikes and you're out,' 'you do the adult crime, you do the adult time' or so-called mandatory minimum sentencing. As appealing as these policies may sound and as expensive as they are, their impacts range from a negligible reduction in crime to an actual increase in crime.

U.S. Incarceration Rate Highest in the World



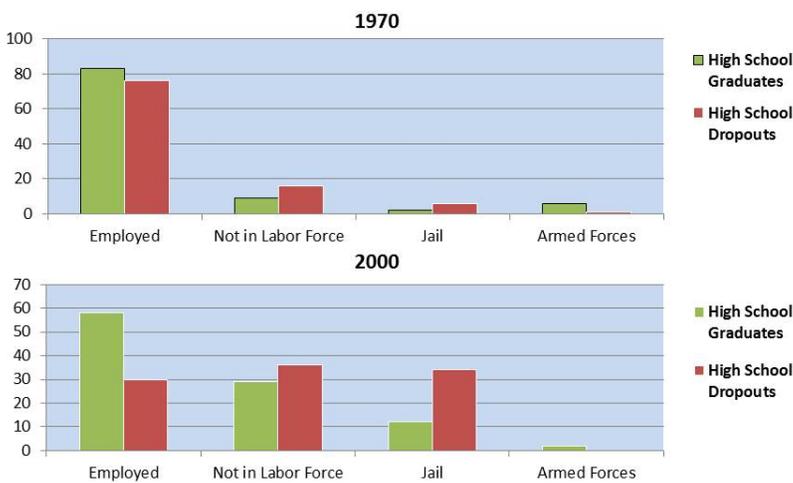
*Year of statistic varies by country according to most recent available data
Sources: International Centre for Prison Studies, Prison Policy Initiative, The Sentencing Project, US Census, Bureau of Justice Statistics

All that the slogans and soundbites enacted over the years have achieved is the highest incarceration rate in the world. With 5% of the world's population, the United States has 25% of the world's prisoners. Adding insult to injury, several recent studies have concluded that our incarceration rate is so high that it is counterproductive—the slogans and soundbites are adding to crime, not

preventing it. The situation is so acute in the minority community that the Children's Defense Fund labels our present incarceration problem as the 'Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline.'

All the credible research shows that a continuum of comprehensive, evidenced-based prevention and intervention programs for youth at risk of, or involved in, delinquent behavior will greatly reduce crime and save much more than they cost when the

Outcomes for Black Males Age 26-30 Decline Sharply Since 1970



Source: Steven Raphael, "The Socioeconomic Status of Black Males: The Increasing Importance of Incarceration." Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, March 2004. (02/28/11)

avoided law enforcement and social welfare expenditures are considered. And the research reveals that these programs are most effective when provided in the context of a coordinated, collaborative local strategy involving law enforcement and other local public and private entities working with children identified as being at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system.

Additionally, sentencing reform and focusing on programs that help ex-offenders reintegrate into society, such as the Second Chance Act, will greatly reduce federal prison spending and more importantly reduce crime. For example, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that limiting the imposition of mandatory minimum sentences on non-violent drug offenders would have an overall net savings of \$3 billion over 10 -years.

The CBC Budget recommends that savings in avoided incarceration and social services costs from investments in prevention and early intervention programs, anti-recidivism programs, and sentencing reform be reinvested in these programs so that they become self-sustaining and have a greater impact.

Reducing Incarceration and Investing in Our Children Saves Money

What if we reduced the Incarceration rate to 500 per 100,000?*

- Reduction from 2,252 per 100,000 to 500 per 100,000
- 1,752 fewer incarcerated x \$29,000 year = \$50,808,000
- Children per 100,000 = approx. 30,000
- \$50,808,000 / 30,000 children = **\$1,693 /child/ year**
- \$50,808,000 targeted at 1/3 of our most vulnerable children = **\$5,080 /child/ year**

*In the Pew Center on the States study "1 in 31", it was determined that incarceration rates over 500 per 100,000 were counterproductive to reducing crime.

Source: International Centre for Prison Studies, King's College; Pew Center on the States. (2/28/11)

INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

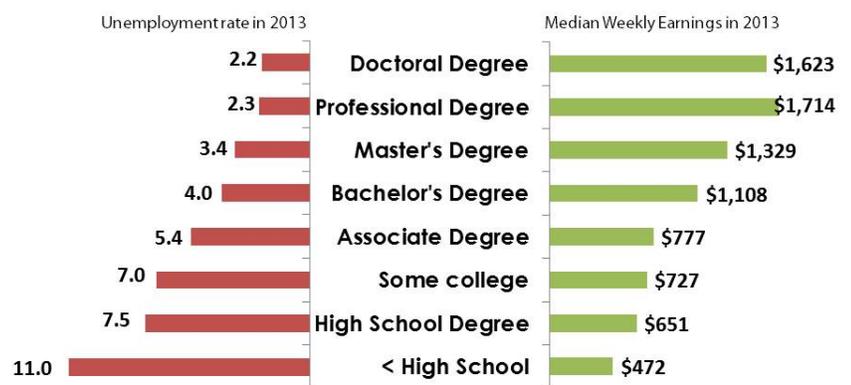
Improving educational resources for high school completion and college and career readiness is a priority for the Congressional Black Caucus. African American, Latino and some Asian American and Pacific Islander students are grossly overrepresented among our nation’s dropouts. In addition, students of color are far more likely to attend schools with highly concentrations of poverty where high school graduation is not always the norm. To counter these issues, the CBC budget provides robust funding for programs such as TRIO, High School Graduation Initiative and teacher training programs

The CBC also is invested in increasing access to higher education. The cost of attending college has tripled since the 1980s, according to the Pew Center. Too many students are forced to either forgo a college education or take on enormous sums of debt. The benefits of a college education cannot be overstated. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median weekly income for an individual with a bachelor's degree was \$1,108 in 2013 whereas the median weekly income for an individual with only a high school diploma was \$651 a week. No American child should be denied the opportunity to go to college because of the cost and the Federal Pell Grant is the single largest source of federal grant aid supporting students in college. To ensure the Pell Grant can assist more

students and cover more of the cost burden placed on students and their families, the CBC Budget continues to increase the maximum Pell Grant award from \$5,775 to \$6,500 per student and indexed to inflation. The CBC budget projects that this will cost approximately \$6 billion above the proposed discretionary base for the Pell Grant program in FY 2015. The CBC Budget also increases funding for strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and their graduate programs.

Education Pays

The More You Learn, The More You Earn
Unemployment Rate vs. Educational Degree Attained



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. (8/7/2014)

ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES

Despite ongoing efforts to reduce health disparities in the United States, racial and ethnic disparities in both health and health care persist. Even when income, health insurance and access to care are accounted for, disparities remain. Low performance on a range of health indicators—such as infant mortality, life expectancy, prevalence of chronic disease, and insurance coverage—reveal differences between racial and ethnic minority populations and their white counterparts. The Affordable Care Act attempts reduce these health disparities by increasing access to care, investing in prevention and wellness, and giving patients more control over their own care. To assist the ACA in addressing these disparities, the CBC budget fully funds the ACA to ensure that individual programs are not set up for failure and that the overall system functions as it was intended. Additionally, the CBC Budget continues to strongly support the National Institutes of Health and their critical research on debilitating diseases such as sickle cell and diabetes.

The CBC Budget also proposes the creation of a public health insurance option in the Affordable Care Act health insurance exchanges, which has consistently scored as a savings for the American taxpayer. The original House version of the Affordable Care Act included a public option that would be based on Medicare's current reimbursement rates plus 5%. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the public option's premiums would be 5-7% lower, on average, than the premiums of private plans offered in the exchanges. Those differences in premiums would reflect the net impact of differences in administrative costs as well as the rates paid to providers. CBO estimates that roughly one-third of the estimated 38 million people that would obtain coverage through the exchanges would enroll in the public option. CBO estimates a public option would reduce the deficit by more than \$118 billion over the next decade. The CBC Budget assumes any savings from the creation of a Public Insurance Option would be used to offset the cost of repealing the SGR.

AGGREGATE FUNCTION INCREASES FOR FY 2016

All numbers are plus-ups for non-Defense discretionary from pre-sequester Budget Control Act spending caps and the President's FY 2016 Budget. The CBC Budget assumes that sequestration will be cancelled and directs that the pre-sequester Budget Control Act caps be adjusted to account for these increases to avoid a discretionary sequester of these programs. See Table 2 for on-budget function totals and Table 3 for year-by-year aggregate function increases.

Function 050: National Defense

The CBC Budget matches the Democratic Budget Alternative with regard to spending for National Defense (Function 050) and Overseas Contingency Operations (Function 970).

The United States faces serious challenges at home and abroad – but Americans know that we have the courage, ingenuity, and resolve to overcome them. The CBC envisions a 21st-Century in which the United States plays a critical role in helping to create a peaceful and prosperous world.

In the 14 years after the 9/11 attacks, spending on defense and security increased 96% and totaled almost \$8 trillion. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have cost \$1.43 trillion, and have taken the lives of over 6,600 brave American men and women in uniform while leaving over 40,000 thirty thousand wounded.

The CBC does not support all the cuts mandated by sequestration. However, the CBC Budget recognizes that significant savings can be achieved by adopting a modern global security strategy that would allow the United States to reduce the federal budget deficit and also invests in our underlying economic strength – the true foundation of our security. As the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen has pointed out, "The single greatest threat to national security is from the national debt."

There are multiple reforms proposed that would save hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade. For example, the Simpson-Bowles commission outlined \$750 billion in suggested defense savings over the next decade. President Reagan's former Assistant Secretary of Defense Lawrence Korb has proposed \$1 trillion in savings at the Pentagon over the next decade as well.

As our involvement in Afghanistan winds down, bringing our defense spending in line with our legitimate security needs must be considered along with other measures to regain our economic footing. Whatever savings can be achieved, a substantial portion should be directed to increasing support for Veteran's health,

access to mental health services, increased support for research and treatment for Traumatic Brain Injury, significantly increased support for the HUD-Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program and the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Survivors & Dependents Assistance (DEA) to increase employment, educational attainment, and to help our nation's veterans navigate the health care, physical and mental therapy services, job training and other programs that exist but are not fully utilized by eligible beneficiaries. Savings should also be directed towards the Office of Economic Adjustment, which assists state and local governments respond to major defense program shifts by helping communities adjust to defense contract losses with planning grants and technical assistance.

AUDIT THE PENTAGON

With more than a decade of war coming to a close, every dollar spent at the Pentagon must be reviewed with scrutiny. As the only federal agency not subject to an audit, the Pentagon loses tens of billions of dollars annually to waste, fraud, and abuse, as highlighted by several GAO reports. Auditing the Pentagon and encouraging DoD to implement remaining GAO recommendations would likely lead to tens of billions in cost savings by bringing a culture of financial accountability to the Pentagon.

As in previous CBC Budgets, the CBC invests savings from cuts to the Ballistic Missile Defense program to be used by the Defense Department to implement the remaining GAO recommendations to save the American taxpayer billions of dollars.

**Function 150:
International
Affairs**

+\$5,000,000,000

The CBC supports additional funding for this function in order to increase funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the U.S. President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); the McGovern-Dole Global Food Aid program; the U.S. Institute of Peace (Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act); Global Health and Child Survival Programs at USAID for family planning, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDs, and maternal health efforts; Iraqi and Afghanistan humanitarian assistance; migration and refugee assistance; peacekeeping efforts in Darfur; education, healthcare and cultural exchange programs; child survival and health programs; development assistance; USAID Donald Payne Fellowship Program; Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, USAID; Racial and Ethnic and Equality Empowerment Office, USAID; The Donald Payne Commission; The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program; Office of Civil Rights, U.S. State Department; Western Hemisphere - Race, Ethnicity, and Social Include Unit;

Race and Ethnicity Experts and Programming for Europe and Eurasia (EUR), Democracy, Rights, and Labor (DRL), and Populations, Refugees, and Migrants (PRM) Bureaus; Western Hemisphere -100,000 Strong in the Americas; International Organizations - United Nations Slave Memorial; and Racial and Ethnic Equality and Empowerment Office in the Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Bureau. Programs in the 150 Account provide vital development and humanitarian assistance, commercial diplomacy and tools to combat the horrors of drug and human trafficking and nuclear proliferation. In the area of global development, the United States has made strong commitments as part of a global effort to achieve an AIDS-Free Generation, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other poverty reduction targets.

**Function 250:
General Science,
Space and
Technology**

+\$8,000,000,000

The CBC Budget proposes that the additional funding provide for in this function apply towards NASA; Noyce Scholarships; the National Science Foundation; the America COMPETES Act (Summer Institutes and Outreach and Experiential-based Programs for Minority Students); the ADVANCE Women's program; Graduate Research Fellowships; and other research related programs. The CBC believes these additional investments in Science, Space and Technology will create new jobs, lead to the development of new technologies, and help ensure that America retains its global competitiveness.

**Function 270:
Energy**

+\$4,000,000,000

Building on the significant investments made by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the CBC Budget invests additional funding for this function to apply towards the Advanced Research Projects Agency at the Department of Energy; the Weatherization Assistance Program; Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programs; State and Tribal Assistance Grants; and investments in clean energy technologies.

**Function 300:
Natural Resources
and Environment**

+\$8,000,000,000

The CBC Budget invests additional funding for this function to apply towards increased funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund; the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; Chesapeake Bay Restoration; the Environmental Protection Agency; the HBCU Historic Preservation Program; the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom; Army Corps of Engineers; the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration; and Environmental Justice related programs. The CBC Budget also includes additional funding for water infrastructure projects under the Water Resources Development Act.

**Function 350:
Agriculture**

+\$2,000,000,000

The CBC Budget invests additional funding for this function to apply towards the Black/Minority Farmer Initiative, 1890 Land-Grant HBCUs, and other programs that support America's family-owned farms.

**Function 400:
Transportation**

+\$138,000,000,000

The CBC Budget provides additional funding for this function to apply towards NASA Aeronautics Research; the Grants-in-Aid for Airports program; the National Infrastructure Bank; Bus and Rail State of Good Repair; Urbanized Area Transit Formula Grants, Amtrak; Public Transit, Highways, Aviation, Ports, Railroads, Bridges and other infrastructure investments. The CBC Budget also invests a significant portion of this increase towards the President's goal of a nationwide high speed rail network. Increased and sustained investments in transportation and infrastructure projects will create jobs and accelerate our economic recovery.

The CBC Budget also proposes a robust jobs bill that includes \$230 billion in infrastructure investments over a three year period.

**Function 450:
Community &
Regional
Development**

+\$30,000,000,000

The CBC Budget restores harmful cuts and fully funds the Community Development Block Grant, which provides for affordable housing development, infrastructure improvements and other community development needs.

The CBC Budget provides additional funding to this function for Empowerment Zones, Homeless Assistance Grants, HOME Funds, HOME Investment Partnerships, Section 108 Loans, Brownfield Redevelopment, Lead Hazard Reduction, Rural Housing and Economic Development, Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and funding for Elderly Housing, HUD's Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, the New Markets Tax Credit program, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFIs).

**Function 500:
Education,
Training,
Employment &
Social Services**

+\$60,000,000,000

The CBC Budget proposes that the additional funding provided in for this function be invested towards continued and sustained increases in education funding, especially for Title I and IDEA. Even though Congress has not finalized a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, this additional funding should help address the huge shortfalls in this program over the last eight years. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made substantial increases in education and job training programs, but

the CBC Budget sustains many of these new investments.

This additional allocation should also be applied towards increases in funding for: Head Start; GEAR UP; TRIO; Youth Build; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education programs; Teacher Quality Grants; Arts in Education; Impact AID; Thurgood Marshall Legal Fund; Education for Homeless Children and Youth; Promise Neighborhoods; Reading is Fundamental; Graduate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fellows in the K-12 program within National Science Foundation (NSF); Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Payment; the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom; the Early Learning Challenge Fund; the Workforce Investment Act Adult Program; Employment and Training Services; Dislocated Workers Program; Youth Activities; Transitional Jobs; Job Corps; Reintegration of Ex-Offenders; at-risk youth and juvenile crime and gang prevention programs and services; Children and Families Services' Job Demonstration Program; Legal Assistance Loan Repayment; the Senior Community Service Employment Program; expanding the Work Share Program; Trade Adjustment Assistance; vocational education programs and Green Jobs programs. The CBC Budget also increases the maximum Pell Grant award from \$5,730 to \$6500.

The CBC Budget also accounts for funding many of the historic increases in funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions as authorized in the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.

**Function 550:
Health**

+\$10,000,000,000

The CBC Budget includes additional funding to enhance and expand vital health care programs. The CBC Budget accounts for increased funding for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs; the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Program; the Office of Minority Health; Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant; Title X; Title X Family Planning Program; evidence-based sexuality education programs; Healthy Communities; the Minority AIDS Initiative; the Ryan White CARE Act; implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy; CDC Prevention activities for HIV, STDs, TB and Viral Hepatitis; Housing for people living with HIV/AIDS; comprehensive sex education programs; Healthcare Facilities and Construction; the Adolescent Family Life Program; Mentoring Children of Prisoners; Alzheimer's research and programs; Cancer research; Alternative Dental Demonstration Projects; Oral Health; Community Health Centers; the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities; Physician Scientist Training Program; NMAETC; Partnerships to Improve Community

Health; Health Careers Opportunity Program; Healthy Start; Center for Disease Control (Buildings and Facilities); National Family Caregiver Support Services; Drug Free Communities Program; the Health Equity Fund; Nursing Programs; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services; Mental and Behavioral Health Training Programs; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); Rural Health; Universal Newborn Screening Program; Maternal and Child Health Block Grants; Maternal and Child Health Special Projects; Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program; the National Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank; Public Health Training Program; and additional investments in Health Information Technology. Additionally, the CBC Budget maintains language that allows the use of local funds for syringe exchange programs in the District of Columbia.

CREATION OF A PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE OPTION IN THE STATE HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGES

The CBC Budget also proposes the creation of a Public Insurance Option to be made available in the state health insurance exchanges. The public health insurance option has consistently scored as a savings for the American taxpayer. The original House version of the Affordable Care Act included a public option that would be based on Medicare's current reimbursement rates plus 5%. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the public option's premiums would be 5-7% lower, on average, than the premiums of private plans offered in the exchanges. Those differences in premiums would reflect the net impact of differences in administrative costs as well as the rates paid to providers. CBO estimates that roughly one-third of the estimated 38 million people that would obtain coverage through the exchanges would enroll in the public option. CBO estimates a public option would reduce the deficit by more than \$118 billion over the next decade. The CBC Budget assumes any savings from the creation of a Public Insurance Option would offset the cost of repealing the SGR.

**Function 600:
Income Security**
+\$16,000,000,000

As the economy continues to recover from the worst recession in generations, the CBC understands the increased need for income security programs such as SNAP, Unemployment Insurance, Medicaid, and COBRA. The CBC Budget rejects the harmful cuts to Medicaid and SNAP included in the proposed Republican Budget and restores the cuts to SNAP benefits in the 2013 Farm Bill. The CBC Budget also restores full funding to LIHEAP and invests additional funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to continue to improve at-risk children's health, growth and development and to reduce the impact of harmful cuts to the program due to sequestration which

could result in the loss of benefits for 600,000 women and children currently participating in the program.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) made substantial investments in ensuring that more Americans have access to these programs during times of economic hardship. The CBC supports restoring the ARRA Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF), which states have used to provide subsidized jobs, mostly in the private sector, for nearly 250,000 otherwise unemployed parents and youth. The CBC Budget includes \$2.5 billion for TANF-ECF.

The CBC Budget also supports the restoration of emergency unemployment benefits for all Americans. Millions of Americans have exhausted their unemployment benefits. Restoring critical unemployment benefits will provide these families with a vital lifeline while job growth continues to improve. Furthermore, this is a direct investment into the economy; these families will reinvest these dollars immediately back into the economy to take care of their most basic needs.

The CBC Budget invests the additional funding for this function towards: Child Support Enforcement; the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; Public Housing (Operating and Capital Funds); HOPE VI; Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program; Homeless Assistance; Project-Based Rental Assistance Program; Supportive Housing programs for the Disabled and Elderly (Section 202 and 811); Choice Neighborhoods Program; the Child Care and Development Block Grant; the Community Supplemental Food Program; the Social Services Block Grant; Child Welfare Services; Adoption Opportunities; Independent Living and Training Vouchers; Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC); Child Nutrition programs; the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Section 8; and Rural Housing Programs;.

**Function 700:
Veterans Benefits
and Services**

+\$10,000,000,000

The CBC believes it is vitally important to provide for the care and benefits that our Veterans rightly earned and deserve. The CBC Budget matches the Independent Budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs as recommended by a coalition of veterans groups. This additional funding for this function is directed towards important V.A. programs, including: Mental Health and PTSD initiatives; local clinic initiatives for non-urban areas; TBI/Polytrauma; Traumatic Brain Injury; V.A. Mental Health Services; Vet Center expansion and improvements; V.A. Substance Abuse Treatment Programs; Medical and Prosthetic Programs; V.A. Workload Increases; Homeless Veterans Programs; Priority 8;

Veterans' Employment and Training Services; Construction of States Extended Care Facilities; and V.A. construction projects (major upgrades and modernizations). This additional funding provided for in the CBC Budget should also be directed towards eliminating the claims backlog.

The CBC also supports Advanced Appropriations for the entire V.A. budget, which would fundamentally change the way the V.A. forecasts its resource requirements and receives its annual funding. Advanced Appropriations would require Congress to fund the VA's discretionary budget a year ahead of schedule, just like veterans' medical care is currently funded, ensuring that all VA services will have the resources they need when they need them.

**Function 750:
Administration of
Justice**

+\$4,000,000,000

The CBC Budget invests the additional funding for this function towards the Justice Assistance Grant Program; Juvenile Justice Programs; Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); Legal Services Corporation; the Equal Opportunity Commission; Civil Rights Enforcement; Office of Justice Programs/Regional Information Sharing System; Office of Violence Against Women; Byrne Grants; State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grants; the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program; Boys and Girls Clubs; the Prisoner Reentry Program; Youth Gang Intervention and Prevention Programs; and fully funding the Second Chance Act and the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act. The CBC Budget also assumes passage of the Youth PROMISE Act and includes funding for this new program. The funding in this function also includes money to protect law enforcement and first responder jobs. The CBC Budget also assumes the deficit reducing and other savings from the enactment of Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

In the wake of the 2010 elections, an explosion of states considered or passed election laws that disproportionately disenfranchise minorities, seniors, students, and low-income individuals. In 2013, the Supreme Court struck down a critical provision of the Voting Rights Act. It is of paramount importance that the Department of Justice retains sufficient resources to ensure that they are able to pursue cases utilizing their Section 2 authority under the Voting Rights Act to ensure voter rights are still protected. The CBC is committed to updating the Voting Rights Act in the wake of *Shelby Co. v. Holder*. The CBC Budget ensures that the Department has the resources to protect the primary right in a democracy: the right to vote.

**Function 800:
General
Government**

+\$3,425,000,000

The CBC Budget provides additional funding for this function for the Internal Revenue Service's Enforcement and Collections division. This investment will yield \$10.7 billion in recovered tax revenue each fiscal year. The CBC Budget also rolls back the harmful cuts to Federal employees and provides necessary funding for a long overdue pay increase. The CBC also supports the continuance of six day delivery by the United States Postal Service as they recognize and affirmatively pursue savings through other measures. The CBC Budget supports the USPS pursuing plans that will maintain the efficiency and effectiveness of current service standards.

GIVING AMERICA'S FEDERAL WORKFORCE A SUFFICIENT RAISE

Federal employees have shown their commitment to our country through their everyday work and through the more than \$100 billion they have already contributed towards deficit reduction. While some on the right unfairly target them in their efforts to reduce the size of the government, the CBC budget is committed to supporting our nation's federal workforce.

The CBC budget ensures that federal employees will be compensated fairly after years of living under a pay freezes. The CBC Budget sets aside approximately \$6 billion over ten years to repeal the pension contribution changes enacted by the Bipartisan Budget Agreement. The CBC Budget also supports a fair cost-of-living adjustment for America's Federal workforce. Additionally, the CBC Budget includes resources for the federal workforce to be properly trained and for them to do their job effectively. Many Americans know little about the contributions of our dedicated civil servants in keeping our nation safe, healthy and moving forward. The Congressional Black Caucus is well aware and the CBC budget reflects our gratitude.

**Function 970:
Overseas
Contingency
Operations**

The use of emergency funding via the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account masks the true impact of war spending and should be discontinued.

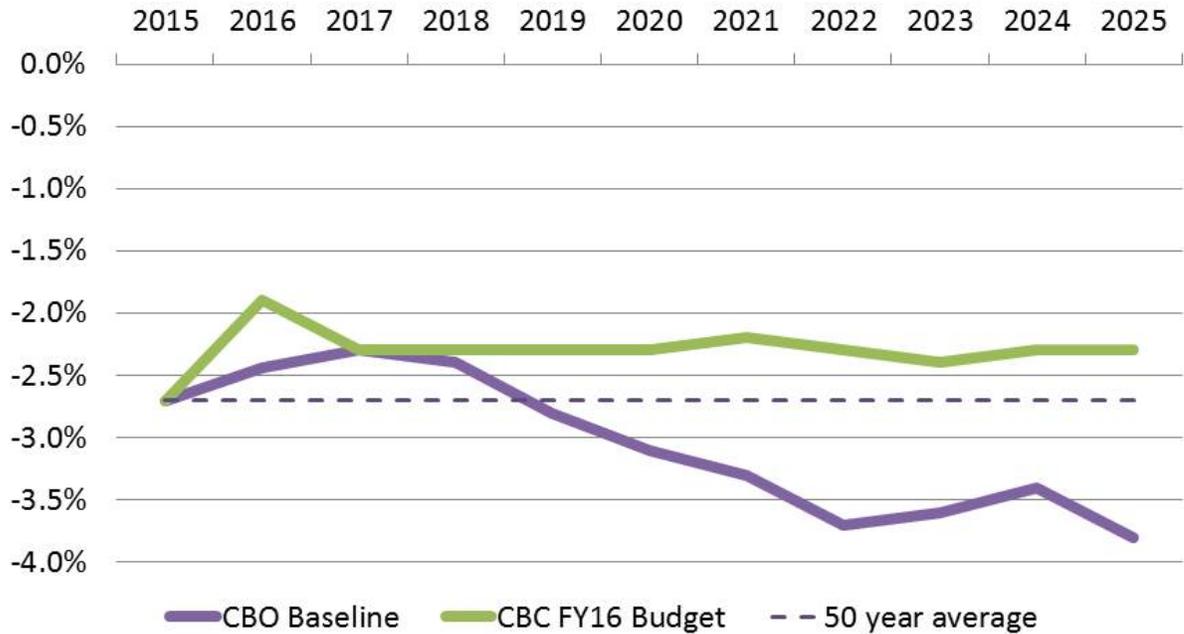
CBC BUDGET ON-BUDGET FUNCTION TOTALS

CBC Budget, FY 2016	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Budget Authority	3491.530	3462.637	3553.354	3698.090	3869.284	4023.836	4186.946	4377.127	4568.349	4742.339
Outlays	3257.091	3452.341	3707.443	3568.341	3848.991	3990.253	4163.913	4336.870	4513.283	4700.933
Revenue	2885.946	3122.928	3262.675	3122.928	3412.112	3570.317	3739.136	3923.276	4117.015	4321.625
Surplus (+)/Deficit (-)	-371.145	-450.614	-445.413	-445.413	-436.879	-419.936	-424.777	-413.594	-396.268	-379.308
Debt Held by the Public	13807	14338	14876	15438	16016	16605	17232	17886	18566	19278
Debt Subject to Limit	19024	19703	20395	21078	21753	22413	23061	23719	24385	25022
Revenue Delta	209.444	226.261	253.208	280.546	305.165	323.097	346.345	393.236	393.236	415.719
Function 050: National Defense										
Budget Authority	570.380	582.126	593.364	601.639	607.930	620.245	632.525	645.784	659.080	672.414
Outlays	582.430	573.904	575.837	588.174	597.134	606.885	622.398	630.255	638.461	655.940
Function 150: International Affairs										
Budget Authority	52.443	49.862	51.103	51.779	52.192	53.269	54.555	55.647	56.743	57.872
Outlays	51.973	50.951	50.224	50.273	50.558	50.887	51.578	52.330	53.215	54.149
Function 250: General Sciences										
Budget Authority	39.059	33.672	33.302	33.623	33.948	34.606	35.279	35.962	36.658	37.372
Outlays	34.705	34.712	33.768	33.517	33.822	34.040	34.618	35.276	35.952	36.650
Function 270: Energy										
Budget Authority	9.210	6.587	6.559	6.491	6.512	6.614	6.714	6.846	6.966	7.102
Outlays	5.041	5.554	5.074	5.427	5.737	5.920	6.074	6.280	6.467	6.635
Function 300: Natural Resources and Environment										
Budget Authority	46.870	45.024	43.212	42.685	43.638	43.839	43.963	44.633	45.398	46.321
Outlays	45.455	46.590	44.919	43.574	44.001	44.057	44.257	44.866	44.915	45.727
Function 350: Agriculture										
Budget Authority	23.384	26.162	25.304	23.879	22.301	22.723	22.575	23.192	23.243	23.503
Outlays	23.078	25.089	24.533	23.060	21.994	22.260	22.046	22.650	22.660	22.975
Function 370: Commerce and Housing Credit										
Budget Authority	15.582	13.976	14.606	14.994	19.383	13.902	14.460	14.422	14.755	15.425
Outlays	1.936	-0.730	-3.487	-5.176	1.656	-0.406	-2.066	-3.341	-4.309	-4.736
Function 400: Transportation										
Budget Authority	245.892	176.674	131.913	123.250	122.563	124.274	105.359	107.204	109.091	111.012
Outlays	122.661	146.865	156.511	155.123	141.858	124.077	117.792	116.434	116.058	116.517
Function 450: Community and Regional Development										
Budget Authority	48.976	28.102	18.642	14.820	14.754	14.712	14.687	14.708	14.790	14.922
Outlays	38.311	38.794	30.629	24.036	20.819	18.835	17.049	15.556	14.642	14.712
Function 500: Education, Training, Employment and Social Services										
Budget Authority	167.660	166.304	147.556	144.976	149.874	147.897	152.965	156.609	158.238	159.178
Outlays	116.847	170.992	161.185	148.166	146.275	149.495	149.868	153.664	157.731	160.116
Function 550: Health										
Budget Authority	523.793	567.859	592.821	618.482	650.054	669.658	703.692	736.968	772.527	808.904
Outlays	534.537	571.527	594.697	619.697	640.838	669.578	702.828	736.533	772.045	808.818
Function 570: Medicare										
Budget Authority	579.870	582.723	592.008	659.492	705.139	755.603	853.270	876.724	891.991	989.930
Outlays	578.208	582.652	591.924	659.296	704.988	755.441	852.997	875.621	890.628	994.440
Function 600: Income Security										
Budget Authority	552.562	562.214	565.415	578.484	591.965	605.932	626.224	637.171	648.928	671.986
Outlays	542.072	553.285	554.225	574.423	586.272	599.737	625.034	631.084	636.719	664.262
Function 650: Social Security										
Budget Authority	33.885	36.535	39.407	42.634	46.104	49.712	53.547	57.455	61.546	65.751
Outlays	33.928	36.563	39.424	42.634	46.104	49.712	53.547	57.455	61.546	65.751
Function 700: Veterans										
Budget Authority	178.175	177.070	173.734	182.946	187.113	190.682	202.554	198.729	195.068	208.439
Outlays	177.617	179.863	173.836	183.353	186.926	190.233	201.895	197.995	194.255	207.621
Function 750: Administration of Justice										
Budget Authority	62.250	64.731	62.804	62.227	62.656	63.787	65.489	66.525	67.581	72.547
Outlays	63.064	65.147	62.595	62.039	63.043	64.359	65.777	66.622	67.525	72.319
Function 800: General Government										
Budget Authority	30.301	30.432	31.244	31.966	32.683	33.267	33.835	34.396	34.729	35.308
Outlays	26.743	29.122	30.463	31.318	32.130	32.679	33.245	33.795	34.155	34.666
Function 900: Net Interest										
Budget Authority	368.027	421.270	495.009	560.645	620.300	666.257	712.670	756.488	794.483	824.027
Outlays	368.027	421.270	495.009	560.645	620.300	666.257	712.670	756.488	794.483	824.027
Function 920: Non-Security Allowances										
Budget Authority	-36.770	-20.241	29.161	-6.425	-10.498	-0.165	-52.229	5.072	78.623	25.333
Outlays	-36.776	-9.339	33.429	-5.314	-7.449	-1.458	-52.706	4.647	78.180	25.313
Function 950: Undistributed Offsetting Receipts										
Budget Authority	-78.016	-88.445	-93.810	-90.497	-89.327	-92.978	-95.188	-97.408	-102.090	-105.007
Outlays	-78.016	-88.445	-93.810	-90.497	-89.327	-92.978	-95.188	-97.408	-102.090	-105.007
Function 970: Overseas Contingency Operations										
Budget Authority	57.997	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	25.250	18.085	7.357	3.675	1.312	0.644	0.202	0.069	0.047	0.040

CHART APPENDIX

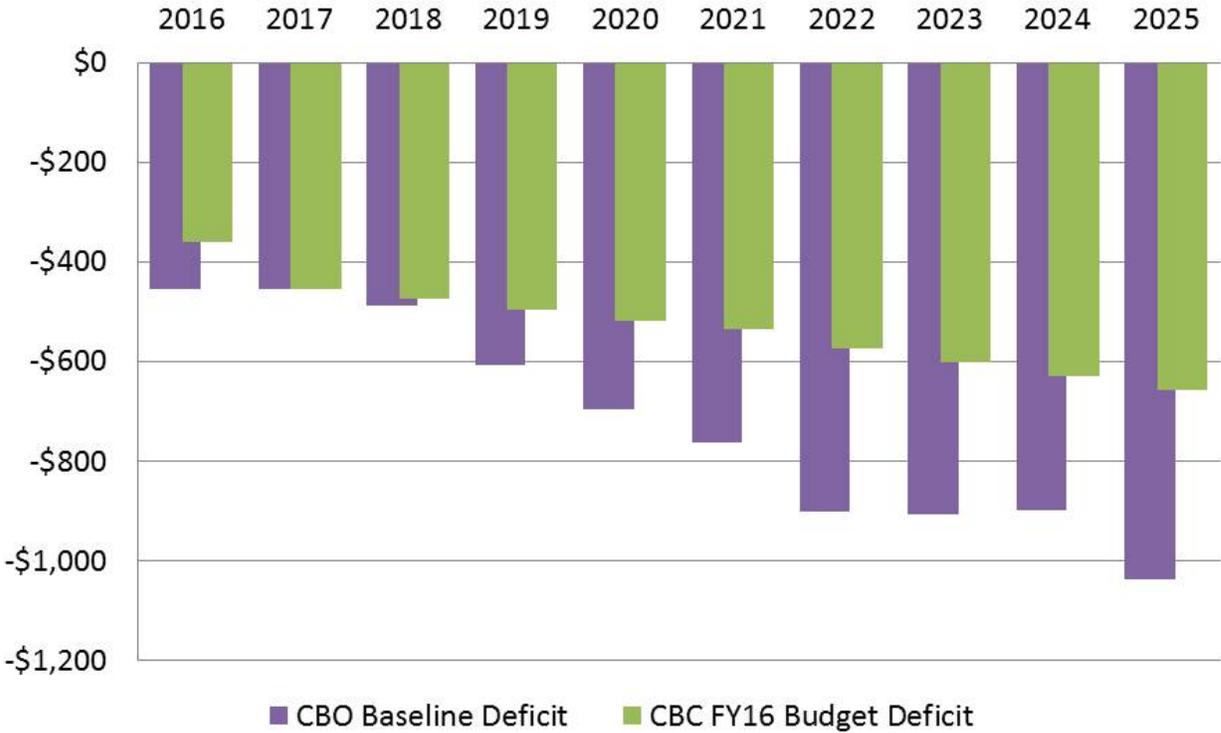
CBC Budget Puts Nation on Sustainable Fiscal Path

(Annual Deficit as a Percent of GDP as compared to CBO'S March 2015 Baseline)



Source: Congressional Budget Office, Updated Budget Projections: 2015 to 2025 (March 2015); House Budget Committee - Democrats

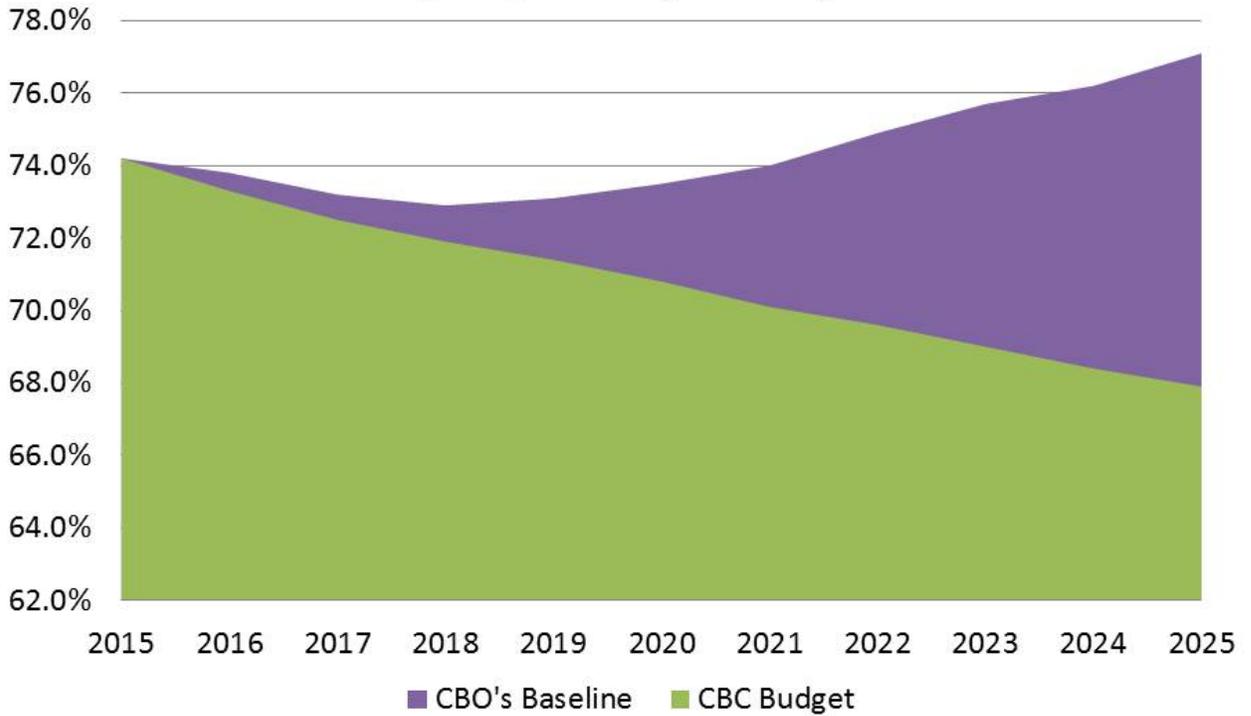
CBC Budget Saves \$1.9 Trillion on the Deficit Over 10 years Compared to CBO's Baseline



Source: Congressional Budget Office, Updated Budget Projections: 2015 to 2025 (March 2015); House Budget Committee - Democrats

Debt Held By the Public Falls Under CBC Budget

(as a percentage of GDP)



Source: Congressional Budget Office, Updated Budget Projections: 2015 to 2025 (March 2015); House Budget Committee – Democrats