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CRFB Praises the President's Call for Entitlement Reform **April 14, 2009**

Today, in an economic address at Georgetown University, President Obama called for addressing the national debt over the medium- and long-term, warning that our current situation would put us on "an unsustainable path." The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB) agrees with the President, and is especially pleased that he has emphasized the importance of entitlement spending.

"President Obama said it best: If we want to get serious about fiscal discipline, we have to get serious about entitlement reform," stated Marc Goldwein, Policy Director of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "This means reforming the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs - including, finding ways to slow the overall growth of healthcare spending."

CRFB urges Congress to act promptly in addressing entitlement growth. We also agree with President Obama that, once the economy recovers, reducing discretionary spending and reforming the tax code will be necessary as well.

"Addressing our long-term deficit isn't going to be easy," Goldwein concluded, "but this speech demonstrates that the President understands that we can't continue putting off hard choices, and that the longer we wait the worse they get."