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**Biden Group Talks Targets and Triggers:
How They Can Shoot Straight
May 26, 2011**

As the debt negotiations led by Vice President Biden continue today, one of the items on the agenda is a “trigger” mechanism to facilitate debt reduction. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB) has some advice on producing effective triggers.

“Targets and triggers are no substitute for a comprehensive fiscal plan, but they can complement a plan and keep it on track,” said Maya MacGuineas, CRFB president. “The most important and most difficult step will be agreeing to specific policy changes, but if a budget mechanism is credible and comes with real teeth, it too can be part of a comprehensive fix.”

The Peterson-Pew Commission on Budget Reform, (www.budgetreform.org), comprised of a bipartisan group of leading budget experts, has studied targets and triggers for over two years and recommended a suite of process reforms, including debt and savings targets to spur action, and spending caps to enforce a budget deal once it is in place. Recently, the Commission offered recommendations on how to strengthen the President’s “debt failsafe” trigger.

Read [“Ten Issues in Designing a New Debt Failsafe”](#)