



PRESS RELEASE

COMMITTEE FOR A RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL BUDGET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 9, 2005

Contact: Jerry Irvine 202-986-2700

Irvine@newamerica.net

CO-CHAIRMEN

Bill Frenzel
Leon Panetta

PRESIDENT

Maya MacGuineas

DIRECTORS

Barry Anderson
Roy Ash
Thomas Ashley
Charles Bowsher
Dan Crippen
Richard Darman
Cal Dooley
Willis Gradison
William Gray, III
Ted Halstead
Jim Jones
Lou Kerr
James Lynn
James McIntyre, Jr.
David Minge
Marne Obernauer, Jr.
June O'Neill
Rudolph Penner
Tim Penny
Peter Peterson
Robert Reischauer
Alice Rivlin
Jim Slattery
Charles W. Stenholm
David Stockman
Paul Volcker
Carol Cox Wait
Joseph Wright, Jr.

SENIOR ADVISORS

Henry Bellmon
Elmer Staats
Robert Strauss

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget Urges Congress to Find Budgetary Savings

WASHINGTON, DC – The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget applauded efforts in the House and Senate to proceed with reconciliation legislation achieving savings in mandatory spending programs for the first time in eight years, while calling on Congress to impose discipline on the revenue side of the budget as well.

The Committee has suggested that Congress proceed with at least the level of planned spending reductions in the budget resolution and preferably increase the level, as the House is considering, while holding off on the tax cuts planned for this year. This would do significantly more to improve the budgetary situation than the existing budget resolution.

“The \$35 billion budgetary target is merely a drop in the bucket of what will ultimately be needed to bring the budget back into balance. Given the structural deficits facing the nation, Congress should be discussing what spending cuts to consider not whether to consider the cuts at all. Finding additional savings while holding off on the tax cuts that are also include in the budget resolution until there is time to reassess national priorities in light of the poor fiscal environment would be a wise approach to reducing the large budget deficits facing the nation,” said Maya MacGuineas, President of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

The Committee urged Members of Congress who do not support the specific spending reconciliation package under consideration in the House to put forth alternative proposals for savings. MacGuineas noted that the Senate was able to scale back or eliminate many of the changes in mandatory spending that generated the most opposition by identifying savings in other areas and encouraged Members of both parties as well as the Administration to take that approach when objecting to individual provisions in the spending reconciliation bills.

“It is no surprise that individual Members disagree on the specifics of what should be included in a package of spending cuts. It is entirely appropriate to reject certain cuts as long as those Members opposed to the cuts are willing to suggest alternative areas of savings. What should not be lost is the willingness to rein in spending as agreed to under the budget that was passed this spring,” said MacGuineas.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget is a bipartisan organization committed to educating policy makers and the public about issues related to fiscal policy. The Co-Chairs of the Committee are Bill Frenzel and Leon Panetta. The Committee is located at the New America Foundation. www.crfb.org.