

**OVERSIGHT PLAN OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
FOR THE 112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**

*Resolved:* That the Committee on the Budget, pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X, adopts as the Oversight Plan of the Committee on the Budget for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress the following:

**COMMITTEE JURISDICTION/OVERSIGHT**

Under clause 2(d) of House Rule X, each Committee is required to adopt and submit to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration an oversight plan by February 15 of the first session of each Congress. The Budget Committee's oversight responsibilities are determined by both the breadth of the Federal budget and the relatively narrow focus of its legislative jurisdiction.

Under clause 1(d)(1) of House Rule X, the primary responsibility of the Budget Committee is the development of a concurrent budget resolution that sets spending and revenue levels in aggregate and across 20 budget functions.

Although the subject matter of the budget is inherently broad, the Committee's formal oversight responsibility focuses on law governing the budget process and the agencies responsible for administering elements of those laws. Under clauses 1(d)(2) and (3) of House Rule X, the major laws falling within its oversight are the Budget and Accounting Act of 1920, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. The two agencies with primary responsibility for administering elements of these laws and hence which fall under the Committee's jurisdiction are the Office of Management and Budget [OMB] and the Congressional Budget Office [CBO].

In addition to these general oversight responsibilities, the Budget Committee has the special oversight responsibility under clause 3(c) of House Rule X to study the effect of budget outlays of existing and proposed legislation and to request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures.

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**Budget Priorities**

In the process of developing the annual concurrent budget resolution, the Committee will hold hearings and receive testimony from Members of Congress, Cabinet-level and other Federal officials, State and local officials, and expert witnesses to review the budget and economic outlook, the President's budget submissions and other budget proposals.

The Committee will assess the performance of Federal agencies in both administration and service delivery by reviewing performance data in the President's budget submissions and the relevant reports and audits of the Government Accountability Office and the Offices of the Inspectors General.

The Committee will study the budgetary effect of existing law and proposed legislation, as well as government regulation, on government spending, and explore ways of reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in government agencies.

The Committee will draw on the authorizing Committee's Views and Estimates on the President's Budget, which are submitted to it pursuant to section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act, to coordinate its oversight activities with other Committees.

The Committee will continue to review the budgetary treatment of assistance to, and ongoing operations of, Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac).

### **Budget Enforcement**

The Committee will provide ongoing oversight of the Office of Management and Budget's implementation of budget submission, control, execution, and enforcement procedures under the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, and other applicable laws.

The Committee will assess the extent to which both the President's budget submissions and the budget resolutions for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 comply with applicable budget laws. The Committee will also work to ensure compliance of the budget-related provisions of H. Res. 5.<sup>1</sup>

As part of these responsibilities, the chair may provide authoritative guidance concerning the impact of a legislative proposition on the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority and revenues.<sup>2</sup>

The Committee will enforce spending limitations and improve accountability pursuant to H. Res. 5, prohibiting a bill, joint resolution, amendment or conference report if the provisions of such measure have the net effect of increasing mandatory outlays.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, the Committee will monitor reclassifications of budget accounts, reestimates of the subsidies of credit programs, consistency in cost estimates for direct spending and tax bills, compliance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and other relevant laws, in the development of budget projections, and changes in spend-out rates for discretionary programs, and implementation of performance plans.

The Committee will work with the Appropriations Committee and the authorizing Committees to ensure that spending and tax legislation does not breach the appropriate levels in the budget

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<sup>1</sup> H. Res. 5 (Adopting Rules for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress) Rule #XXIX, Clause 4.

<sup>2</sup> H. Res. 5 (Adopting Rules for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress) Rule #XXIX, Clause 4.

<sup>3</sup> H. Res. 5 (Adopting Rules for the One Hundred Twelfth Congress) Rule #XXI, Clause 10.

resolution, as required under sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 or violate the budget provisions of H.Res. 5.

### **Direct Spending and Tax Expenditures**

The Committee will request and evaluate continuing studies of tax expenditures and direct spending by the Federal Government, and whether they are the most appropriate and efficient means to achieve specified public policy goals.

### **Economic Policy**

The Committee will study how economic policies affect the Federal budget. The Committee will also study monetary policy and its effects on the Federal budget. One of the first hearings held by the Budget Committee will feature the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke to review economic conditions, fiscal conditions, and monetary policy.

### **OVERSIGHT SCHEDULE**

The following are the Committee's initial plans for hearings and other oversight activities.

#### *First Session (2011)*

Winter 2011—Hearing on the fiscal impact of health care programs and policies.

Winter 2011—Hearing on the economy —Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Winter 2011—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook—Director of CBO.

Winter 2011—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget—Director of OMB.

Winter 2011—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget—Treasury Secretary.

Winter 2011—Possible hearing on the outlook for the Federal Debt.

Winter 2011—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget—Members of Congress.

Winter 2011—Possible additional hearings on the President's budget and the budget outlook.

Winter 2011—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate development of the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Winter 2011—Possible hearing on Federal entitlement spending and the long-term budget outlook,

Winter-Spring 2011—Possible field hearings.

Possible additional hearings to review federal spending, taxes, deficits, debt, and the economy.

*Second Session (2012)*

Winter 2012—Hearing on the economy

Winter 2012—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget—Treasury Secretary.

Winter 2012—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook—Director of CBO.

Winter 2012—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget—Director of OMB.

Winter 2012—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget—Members of Congress.

Winter 2012—Receive Views and Estimates from other Committees to coordinate in developing the annual concurrent budget resolution.

Fall 2012—Hearing on the budget year-end review and preview of coming budget year—Directors of OMB and CBO.

Possible additional hearings may include reviewing federal spending, taxes, deficits, debt, and the economy.

The Committee will also conduct research, examine programs, and prepare analyses of fiscal and economic issues with an emphasis on providing for a more effective and accountable Federal government.