

**OVERSIGHT PLAN  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
FOR THE  
115<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 115<sup>th</sup> Congress the following:

**COMMITTEE JURISDICTION AND OVERSIGHT**

Clause 2(d) of Rule X of the Rules of the House requires each Committee to adopt and submit to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, and Appropriations an oversight plan by February 15 of the first session of each Congress. The Budget Committee's oversight responsibilities include both the breadth of the Federal budget and its legislative jurisdiction.

Under clause 1(d)(1) of House Rule X, the primary responsibility of the Budget Committee is to develop a concurrent resolution on the budget for a fiscal year. This concurrent resolution sets spending and revenue levels in aggregate, across 21 budget functions, and provides allocations of spending levels for each Committee of Congress.

Although the subject matter of the budget is inherently broad, in addition to oversight of the budget and the economy, the Committee's formal oversight responsibility includes laws governing the budget process and the agencies responsible for administering elements of those laws. Under clauses 1(d)(1)-(3) of House Rule X, the major laws falling within its oversight include the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, the Budget Control Act of 2011, and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. 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 regularly report the results of such studies to the House.

## OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

### 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 review and pursue budget process reform legislation and will continue its budget process reform initiative from the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, which culminated in the release of the Committee's Discussion Draft on the "Proposed Rewrite of the Congressional Budget Process." In continuing its efforts to restructure the congressional budget process, the Committee will focus on six main areas through hearings and legislation: enhancing constitutional authority, strengthening budget enforcement, reversing the bias toward higher spending, controlling automatic spending, increasing transparency, and ensuring fiscal sustainability.

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 effects 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 Committees' Views and Estimates on the President's Budget, which are submitted to it pursuant to section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, to coordinate its oversight activities with other Committees.

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

### Budget Enforcement

The Committee will provide ongoing oversight of OMB'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, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, the Budget Control Act of 2011, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 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 2017, 2018, and 2019 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 under the Cut-Go Rule, prohibiting consideration of a bill, joint resolution, amendment or conference report if the provisions of such measure have the net effect of increasing direct spending 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 do not breach the levels provided for in the budget resolution, as required under sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 or violate the budget provisions of the Rules of the House.

## 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.

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<sup>1</sup> H. Res. 5 (115<sup>th</sup> Congress) extended and revised the Rules of the House for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress. Section 3 (Separate Orders) of H. Res. 5 also set forth additional budgetary controls.

<sup>2</sup> This authority may be found in clause 4 of rule XXIX of the Rules of the House.

<sup>3</sup> Cutgo may be found in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House.

## 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. The Committee plans to take testimony from the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Janet L. Yellen, to review economic conditions, fiscal conditions, and monetary policy.

## Exercise of Article I Authority

The Committee, in keeping with its duties and powers under Article I of the Constitution of the United States, will also exercise authority over the executive branch of the Federal Government. During the transition of any new Administration, Agency accountability is an important component of congressional oversight; the Committee will maintain these oversight responsibilities irrespective of election results and governing party.

## Oversight of the Congressional Budget Office

CBO was created under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 in order to provide Congress with economic and budgetary analysis and cost estimates for proposed legislation. CBO has not been reauthorized since the enactment of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. It operates under a permanent indefinite authorization. In keeping with House rules and protocols, the Committee will consider reauthorizing CBO at a fixed amount for a limited period of time. The Committee also plans to exercise its oversight responsibility over CBO through hearings and other activities.

### OVERSIGHT SCHEDULE

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

#### First Session (2017)

Winter 2017—Hearing on the Failures of Obamacare: Harmful Effects and Broken Promises.

Winter 2017—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook: Director of CBO.

Winter 2017—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Director of OMB.

Winter 2017—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget: Treasury Secretary.

Winter 2017—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget:  
Members of Congress.

Winter 2017—Possible additional hearings on the President's  
budget and the budget outlook.

Winter 2017—Receive Views and Estimates from other  
Committees to coordinate development of the annual  
concurrent budget resolution.

Winter 2017—Possible hearing on Federal entitlement spending  
and the long-term budget outlook.

Winter–Spring 2017—Possible field hearings.

Spring 2017—Hearing on the economy: Chairman of the Federal  
Reserve Board.

Summer 2017—Hearing on the long-term budget outlook.

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

#### Second Session (2018)

Winter 2018—Hearing on CBO's Economic and Budget Outlook:  
Director of CBO.

Winter 2018—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget:  
Director of OMB.

Winter 2018—Hearing on the economy.

Winter 2018—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget:  
Treasury Secretary.

Winter 2018—Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget:  
Members of Congress.

Winter 2018—Receive Views and Estimates from other  
Committees to coordinate in developing the annual concurrent  
budget resolution.

Summer 2018—Hearing on the long-term budget outlook.

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.