



CHAIR JODEY ARRINGTON

# HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

## Chairman Arrington: Interest Rates Stay High While Government Grapples Fiscal Curse

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-TX) released the following statement in response to the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) of the Federal Reserve (Fed)'s decision on the [federal funds rate](#), the Fed's primary interest rate.

*"Today's decision by the Fed illustrates two critical points. First, while the fight against inflation is improving, it is not yet over. I encourage the Fed to continue its efforts, particularly in unwinding its bloated balance sheet, and to end inflation for good.*

*"Second, the bill has finally come due for our profligate spending addiction – and it isn't going away. We are projected to spend \$10.6 trillion on interest costs alone over the next decade, more than we will spend on national defense over that same time.*

*"It is time we adopt a culture of fiscal responsibility and get our fiscal house in order, before it is too late."*

### **By The Numbers:**

[Biden's cost-of-living crisis](#) and sky-high interest rates have had a lasting, regressive impact on families and individuals.

- Since January 2021, average **prices have increased by 17.6 percent**.
- The average family of four is **paying \$15,576 MORE per year**, or \$1,298 per month to purchase the same goods and services as in January 2021.
- Relative to when President Biden took office in January 2021, **real earnings are down 4.5 percent**.
- Under President Biden, workers have **lost an average of over \$6,000 in real wages**.

- The gross federal debt has ballooned to over \$34 trillion, or **over \$250,000 per household in the U.S.**
- During the most recent fiscal year, the **government spent \$659 billion on net interest costs.**
- Over the upcoming decade, we are **projected to spend \$10.6 trillion on financing the debt alone.**
- Between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of this year, **household debt increased \$228 billion to \$17.29 trillion, and credit card debt rose by \$48 billion to \$1.08 trillion, both all-time highs.**