

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 9, 2021

Dr. Phillip Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office
Ford House Office Building
D St. SW & 2nd St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Director Swagel:

On November 4, 2021, Congressional Democrats introduced another revised reconciliation bill (Rules Committee Print 117-18), as amended by House Committee on the Budget Chairman John Yarmuth's Manager's Amendment, pursuant to S.Con.Res.14, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budget Resolution. This new package was written behind closed doors and out of view of the American people, including the overwhelming majority of Members of Congress. It has received no public hearings from legislative committees and is full of budgetary gamesmanship. While it is clear this package, as written, already has multi-trillion-dollar implications for federal spending, revenues, and deficits, a formal estimate will fail to capture the true cost of the bill given the long-term legislative intent of Congressional Democrats. Democrats from both sides of the Capitol have made it clear that they will work to make many of their proposals permanent.

As you are aware, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) periodically provides additional information on how its budget projections would change under alternative assumptions. This information does not reflect current law projections, but rather what CBO estimates could occur based on precedent and expressed congressional intent. It is in this vein that we ask you to provide an estimate that truly reflects the intent of the Democrats' reckless tax and spending scheme under this bill.

We request that CBO produce a supplemental cost estimate of the revised reconciliation bill to illustrate the deficit impact of the legislation if the following provisions were made permanent or otherwise modified as stipulated below, as is the intent of the bill's authors:

1. Child Tax Credit Expansion, Section 137102, currently sunsets after 2022.
2. Earned Income Tax Credit Expansion, Section 137201, currently sunsets after 2022.
3. Child Care and Universal Pre-Kindergarten, Sections 23001 and 23002, currently sunset after 2027.
4. State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction, Section 137601, assume no extension beyond 2025.

5. Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), Section 24002, currently sunsets after 2024.
6. Tax-Exempt Bond Financing Requirement, Section 135102, currently sunsets after 2026.
7. Trade Adjustment Assistance, Section 133503, current expansions sunset July 1, 2025.
8. Establishing a Health Insurance Affordability Fund, Section 30602, currently sunsets after 2025.
9. Extending Expanded Obamacare Premium Assistance and Revising the Employer-Sponsored Coverage Affordability Test, Sections 137301 and 137302, currently sunset after 2025 and 2026.
10. Temporary Expansion of Health Insurance Premium Tax Credits for Certain Low-Income Enrollees, Section 137304, currently sunsets after 2025.
11. Provisions Related to Individuals Receiving Unemployment Compensation, Sections 137305 and 30605, currently sunset after 2022.
12. Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Improvement Program, Section 30712(a), the temporary Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) provided to states with self-directed care models which currently sunsets mid-way through 2023.
13. Continued Access for Children and Others, Section 30741(g), the temporary FMAP for certain health care systems which currently sunsets after 2025.
14. Maintenance of Effort Penalty, Section 30751, currently sunsets after 2025.
15. Provisions Relating to Elder Justice, Section 134201, current sunsets vary.
16. Higher Education provisions, Sections 20021, 20022, 20023, and 137502, current sunsets vary.
17. Payroll Tax Credit for Compensation of Journalists, Section 138516, currently sunsets after 2025.

We also request that you include in your estimate the higher interest payments on the federal debt resulting from the modifications described above. American taxpayers, who will ultimately pay for the massive expansion of federal programs and policies called for in this legislation, should be aware of the actual cost of this legislation.

We kindly ask for this information to be provided no later than one day after transmittal of the CBO cost estimate for this legislation or 48 hours before the U.S. House of

Representatives considers the FY 2022 reconciliation measure, whichever comes first. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Brad Watson (brad.watson@mail.house.gov) with the House Committee on the Budget or Chris Devine (chris_devine@budget.senate.gov) with the Senate Committee on the Budget. Our staff will transmit a similar request for the revenue provisions listed above to the Joint Committee on Taxation in an effort to procure the necessary information for this analysis. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jason Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Budget



Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Budget