



March 24, 2026

The Honorable Jody Arrington  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brendan Boyle  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Arrington, Ranking Member Boyle, and Members of the Committee:

A 3 percent of GDP deficit limit offers a clear, credible benchmark to guide policymakers and help reassure markets that Congress is serious about stabilizing the nation's finances. It brings much-needed focus to the worsening debt crisis.

To reach the target goal, lawmakers should pair it with an effective mechanism to enact needed reforms, such as a fiscal commission. Pursued seriously, a 3 percent of GDP deficit target can help put the federal budget on a more sustainable path.

Sincerely,  
Romina Boccia  
Director of Budget and Entitlement Policy, Cato Institute