



May 14, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Arrington and Ranking Member Boyle:

We are writing to support H.R. 8195, the Strengthening Administrative PAYGO Act of 2024. We believe H.R. 8195 would enhance congressional oversight of administrative actions with significant fiscal impact and help to bolster fiscal responsibility in federal budgeting.

At present, the director of the Office of Management and Budget has unilateral authority to waive Administrative PAYGO. While the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023 temporarily reinstated Administrative PAYGO after President Biden revoked it on his first day in office, the FRA's restoration was simply a good-faith effort and failed to provide any real check on administrative actions by the legislative branch. This has allowed the administration to add hundreds of billions to deficits through executive action without paying for them and without any accountability to Congress.

As written in the text of the legislation:

- H.R. 8195 would amend section 265 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which gives the OMB Director the authority to unilaterally waive Administrative PAYGO, by adding, "The Director shall submit, to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate – any waiver determination...and a detailed explanation of why such waiver was necessary; and an estimate of the budgetary effects of the covered discretionary administrative actions as waived." This would effectively establish a check on fiscally significant executive branch actions by the legislative branch.
- Enacting the bill would strengthen Congress' power of the purse. With the Administration eyeing billions of dollars of student debt cancellation and other measures through executive action, congressional oversight of such actions is perhaps more important now than ever to prevent billions or even trillions of dollars of future borrowing. H.R. 8195 also repeals section 268 of the FRA to make Administrative PAYGO permanent, which is necessary to continuously hold the executive branch accountable for its use of taxpayer dollars.



This effort to clarify and strengthen Administrative PAYGO would enhance congressional oversight of the executive branch's use of taxpayer dollars and help to restore the principle of fiscal responsibility of federal budgeting.

We congratulate you on the introduction of the Strengthening Administrative PAYGO Act of 2024 and hope to see H.R. 8195 advance out of the Budget Committee and ultimately be enacted into law. We congratulate you on the introduction of the Strengthening Administrative PAYGO Act of 2024 and hope to see H.R. 8195 advance out of the Budget Committee and ultimately be enacted into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Holtz-Eakin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan Haring". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jordan Haring, Director of Fiscal Policy, American Action Forum