



May 15, 2024

Dear Chairman Arrington, Ranking Member Boyle, and members of the committee:

We encourage members of the House Budget Committee to support the Debt Per Taxpayer Information Act. The American people – including Americans serving in Congress – can benefit from clear, intuitive information about federal government activities.

This legislation would require the president’s budget request to Congress and Congress’ concurrent resolution on the budget to indicate the per-taxpayer levels of federal debt in recent and upcoming years.

In addition, employer-provided W-2 forms that enable individuals to file accurate tax returns would briefly note the prior year’s federal revenue, spending, deficits, and debt, including the federal debt per taxpayer. Conveniently, the period between receiving W-2s and filing taxes coincides with the early stages of the federal budget process.

The federal government’s growing debt burden threatens our freedom and prosperity as well as America’s leading role in global affairs. Congress must change course, but doing so is difficult when the federal government’s fiscal outlook is poorly understood.

The Debt Per Taxpayer Information Act would improve common knowledge on the budget challenges facing Congress and the American people. The White House and Congress would acknowledge the debt burden’s current level and its outlook. The Secretary of the Treasury, acting through employers, would provide similar information to most taxpayers.

Accepting the fiscal facts is a first step toward recognizing the problem. That common foundation may give Congress more ability to confront these challenges, especially if combined with repairs to the federal budget process.

We urge all members to support the Debt Per Taxpayer Information Act, and we commend Chairman Arrington for proposing the legislation.

Sincerely,

Kurt Couchman  
Senior Fellow in Fiscal Policy  
Americans for Prosperity