



April 15, 2024

The Honorable Jodey Arrington
Chairman, House Budget Committee
204 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brendan Boyle
Ranking Member, House Budget Committee
507 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Arrington and Ranking Member Boyle,

On behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center, I write to commend you and your colleagues on the House Budget Committee for your work in advancing H.R. 7032, the Congressional Budget Office Data Sharing Act.¹ This thoughtful, bipartisan legislation would enhance the working relationships between the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and federal departments and agencies, and would enable CBO to collect better data in the course of serving lawmakers and their staff.

As you know, CBO faces challenges in gaining access to agency-level data, even with willing executive branch partners. These challenges delay or even prevent CBO from working hand in hand with departments and agencies, which in turn hinders CBO's ability to respond to congressional requests in a timely manner.

Your legislation would address these challenges head on, enhancing CBO's ability to work with federal agencies while retaining confidentiality protections that are essential to any entity making use of potentially sensitive government data. We were glad to see widespread, bipartisan support for H.R. 7032 in the House Budget Committee in February of this year.

With the 50th anniversary of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act approaching,² now is the perfect time for lawmakers to be considering reforms large and small that would improve upon this law and update it for the budgetary challenges lawmakers face in the 21st century. BPC looks forward to working with you and the members of the House Budget Committee on this and other proposals to reform and improve the congressional budget process.³

We thank you for your work on H.R. 7032 and for your commitment to bipartisan, bicameral budget process reform.

Sincerely,

G. William Hoagland
Senior Vice President, BPC

¹ Congress.gov. "H.R.7032 - Congressional Budget Office Data Sharing Act," Introduced January 18, 2024. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/7032/text>.

² Congress.gov. "H.R.7130 - Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974," Introduced April 18, 1973. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/93rd-congress/house-bill/7130>.

³ Alice M. Rivlin and Pete Domenici, "Proposal for Improving the Congressional Budget Process," Bipartisan Policy Center, July 2015. Available at: <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/download/?file=/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/BPC-Congressional-Budget-Process.pdf>; Bipartisan Policy Center Action, "Options to Reform the Congressional Budget Process as It Turns 50," 2023. Available at: <https://bpcaction.org/wp-content/uploads/BPCA-Budget-Process-Reform-One-Pager.pdf>.