



**U.S. House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
Washington, DC 20515-6065

June 12, 2024

The Honorable Phillip Swagel  
Director, Congressional Budget Office  
Ford House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Director Swagel:

Since January 20, 2021, the Biden Administration has unilaterally spent trillions of dollars<sup>1</sup> – usurping Congress’ constitutional power of the purse. This has contributed to a nearly \$7 trillion increase in the national debt under President Biden, as well as projections for the highest sustained deficits in American history. As a result, Americans have been left with the highest level of inflation in 40 years, with prices rising by a total of almost 20 percent since President Biden assumed office.

As this administration increasingly continues to introduce and implement executive actions at the expense of the American taxpayer, it is integral for the public to have a clear accounting of the budgetary costs associated with the Biden Administration’s most expensive executive actions to date.

While the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) already incorporates the fiscal impact of executive actions into its baseline, it does not provide a separate, clear accounting of these costs to taxpayers. It is in this vein that we ask you to provide estimates of the cost of significant executive actions under the Biden Administration, including:

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. “*Medicaid Program; Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Managed Care Access, Finance, and Quality*,” May 10, 2024. 89 FR 41002, 41266.
2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. “*Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting*,” May 10, 2024. 89 FR 40876.
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. “*Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities*,” May 6, 2024. 89 FR 37522.

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<sup>1</sup> House Budget Committee, “President Biden’s Executive Actions Have Cost Taxpayers Over \$2 Trillion,” April 26, 2024. <https://budget.house.gov/press-release/president-bidens-executive-actions-have-cost-taxpayers-over-2-trillion>

4. Social Security Administration. “*Intermediate Improvement to the Disability Adjudication Process*,” April 18, 2024. 89 FR 27653, 27664.
5. U.S. Department of Education. “*Student Debt Relief for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Direct Loans), the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, the Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins) Program, and the Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL) Program*,” April 17, 2024. 89 FR 27564.
6. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. “*Medicaid Program; Streamlining the Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program, and Basic Health Program Application, Eligibility Determination, Enrollment and Renewal Processes*,” April 2, 2024. 89 FR 22780.
7. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. “*Streamlining Medicaid; Medicare Savings Program Eligibility Determination and Enrollment*,” September 21, 2023. 88 FR 65230.
8. U.S. Department of Education. “*Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program*,” July 10, 2023. 88 FR 43820.
9. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “*Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles*,” May 5, 2023. 88 FR 29184.
10. U.S. Department of Education. “*Institutional Eligibility Under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended; Student Assistance General Provisions; Federal Perkins Loan Program; Federal Family Education Loan Program; and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program*,” November 1, 2022. 87 FR 65904.

Additionally, we ask you to provide updated estimates from a previous [Committee letter sent to CBO on April 29, 2022](#), for the following executive actions issued by the Biden Administration, which include:

1. The total budgetary impact of the Biden Administration’s “student loan pauses” from February 2021 to October 2023.
2. Internal Revenue Service. “*Affordability of Employer Coverage for Family Members of Employees*,” April 07, 2022. 87 FR 20354.
3. U.S. Department of Labor. “*Increasing the Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors*,” November 24, 2021. Executive Order 14026.
4. U.S. Department of Agriculture. “*Thrifty Food Plan, 2021*,” August 2021. FNS-916.

5. The difference between implementation of, and dropping, the following rule: U.S. Department of Agriculture. “*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents*,” December 05, 2019. 84 FR 66782.
6. The difference between implementation of, and dropping, the following rule: U.S. Department of Homeland Security. “*Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds*,” August 14, 2019. 84 FR 41292.
7. The difference between implementation of, and disallowing, waivers granting states the flexibility to establish work requirements under the Medicaid program.

When formulating these estimates, we also request that such estimates include the increase in interest payments on the federal debt resulting from these executive actions, in addition to the cumulative budgetary effect of all executive actions from this Administration. We also request that, in giving cost estimates, CBO reference the statutory source of authority for each executive action.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Brad Watson ([Brad.Watson@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brad.Watson@mail.house.gov)) with the House Committee on the Budget.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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Jodey Arrington  
Chairman  
House Budget Committee



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Jack Bergman  
Chair of the Oversight Task Force  
House Budget Committee