

CEI – Clyde Wayne Crews Jr. – *Budget Blueprint* Statement

As overwhelming as the federal debt has become—clocking in at \$34 trillion with at least another \$8 billion projected to accumulate by 2029 according to CBO—the thousands of regulations issued by the Administrative State every year are even less disciplined than spending.

Alongside its pursuit of budget balance and sound fiscal policy, the 2025-34 *Budget Blueprint* recognizes the centrality of regulatory streamlining and restraint for economic well-being. Both fiscal and regulatory reforms are vital for long-term resilience and prosperity. In recognition of that, the *Blueprint* showcases several long-standing regulatory reforms to bring across the finish line, some of which have noteworthy bipartisan pedigree. These advances include: securing congressional approval of major regulations; regulatory cost budgeting; small business regulatory relief; sub-regulatory guidance document transparency in the form of portals and classification and other measures prioritizing disclosure and accountability. With these changes and more, the profusion of unfunded mandates on the private sector and state and local governments—set for a surge under Biden—would dissipate.

The new *Blueprint* understands that the fusion of spending and regulation characterizing governance in today's America is unsustainable, and that new boundaries on spending and red tape are urgent. As it stands, without putting in place disciplines like those provided for in the *Blueprint*, Washington will again react reflexively to the inevitable next unforeseen economic shock (like COVID) with fresh waves of spending and regulatory intervention, further weakening our already precarious fiscal and economic condition.

It is time for Congress to put an end not only to breakneck spending and the accompanying stratospheric debt, but to also turn back the Biden-era torrent of “whole-of-government” regulatory interventions via a resounding restoration of Article I congressional accountability for rulemaking.