

Statement of Support for H.R. 7032
The Congressional Budget Office Data Sharing Act

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It is my pleasure to submit this statement supporting the adoption of H.R. 7032, the Congressional Budget Office Data Sharing Act. I worked at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) for nearly 20 years, the last dozen or so serving as CBO's principal liaison to Congress. In that capacity, I witnessed the periodic struggles CBO analysts faced in their efforts to acquire timely data and information from Executive Branch agencies to prepare cost estimates and other critical budgetary analyses for Congress. H.R. 7032 would reaffirm Congress' original directive under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 giving CBO access to Executive Branch data and would clarify and enhance CBO's statutory authority to acquire such data to carry out its duties under the Budget Act in support of the Budget Committees and the broader Congressional budget process.

It is also important to note that the House Budget Committee reported H.R. 7032 by a unanimous vote of 30-0. In my view, that vote strongly suggests that the Committee views this measure as a buttress for Congress institutional capacity to protect its power of the purse under Article I of the Constitution. That is reminiscent of the strong bipartisanship that led to the enactment of the Congressional Budget Act and other institutional reforms in the early 1970s to reassert Congress' constitutional prerogatives. As we approach the 50th anniversary of the enactment of that landmark measure, H.R. 7032 represents an important restatement of and enhancement to that critical law.