

I voted Yes on H.Con.Res. 112, establishing the budget for the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2013.

Congressional budget resolutions are plans for the upcoming and future fiscal years. These resolutions do not go to the President for his signature and do not become law. Rather, if adopted by both chambers, budget resolutions are simply agreements between the House and Senate on a budget plan. They provide a blueprint for legislative action on budget matters during each session.

I came to Washington to be serious and focus on solutions to our greatest challenges, including saving Medicare and Social Security, job creation, deficit reduction and energy independence. This budget is not perfect, and I remain open to all reasonable revenue and spending proposals, but the plan does seriously attempt to address these priorities.

This budget puts America on a path to fiscal responsibility and pays off the national debt over time. It strengthens and saves Social Security and Medicare – all while ensuring no one over the age of 55 sees any change in their benefits whatsoever.

- **Strengthening Healthcare and Retirement Security:** Without urgent action, Medicare will go broke in 2022 - just ten years from today. This budget strengthens Medicare by taking power away from federal bureaucrats that were set up by the health care law and instead gives patients and seniors more choice over their own care. This proposal saves Medicare with no changes at all for those in and near retirement. When younger Americans become eligible, Medicare would provide a premium-support payment and a list of guaranteed options from which individuals can choose a health plan that best suits their unique needs. Importantly, one would still be able to choose the traditional Medicare fee-for-service model. This plan for saving Medicare was developed in a bipartisan manner and is worthy of consideration. The budget also requires action by the President and Congress to strengthen Social Security over the long run.
- **Reforming Taxes:** Instead of raising taxes for American families and businesses, this budget reforms our tax code to make it simpler, fairer, and more competitive globally. The budget closes special interest loopholes that pick winners and losers among corporations and lobbyists, while lowering rates for individuals and businesses to promote growth.

- **Cutting Spending, Paying Off the Debt and Rightsizing Government:** This budget reduces government spending by \$5 trillion relative to the President's budget request. Spending restraints are critical to moving our budget towards balance and enabling the private economy to recover. This budget importantly drives down the debt as a share of the economy over the next decade and would pay off the debt responsibly over time. The budget brings the size of government down to 20 percent of economy, which enables citizens and businesses in the private sector with the space needed to create jobs and thrive.
- **Upholding our National Security:** Instead of cutting defense by nearly \$500 billion like the President proposed – which would have devastating effects on the Rome installations and enterprises – this budget prevents haphazard cuts and instead identifies commonsense savings and funds defense at levels that keep our nation safe.
- **Making America more Energy Independent:** This budget allows for safe, responsible energy exploration in the United States and promotes an all-of-the-above energy policy that would lower energy costs and reduce our dependence on hostile, foreign nations.

Overall, this budget resolution represents another step in the early stages of a serious debate over how we should best put our fiscal house in order. We've reached the tipping point and cannot afford to kick the can down the road any longer. America and Upstate New York must return to being societies of opportunity and prosperity in which we preserve a compassionate social safety net for the most vulnerable among us.

The resolution was approved by a vote of 228 – 191.