

your letter requesting OMB's analysis of the Republican budget resolution and its impact on the budget outlook.

On January 3, 2017, Republicans in the Senate Budget Committee introduced an FY 2017 budget resolution. Based on the numbers provided in the resolution, the Republican budget includes virtually no deficit reduction and would allow debt held by the public to increase by roughly \$9.5 trillion, from

\$14.2 trillion in 2016 to \$23.7 trillion in 2026. After a sustained period of historically fast deficit reduction under the President's leadership, the Republican budget would allow for a relatively steady increase in annual deficits, with the annual on-budget deficit increasing to over \$1 trillion by 2026.

Assuming that Republicans will not make cuts to off-budget programs like Social Security, unified annual deficits will be even

larger: growing to over \$1 trillion by 2022 and reaching more than \$1.3 trillion by 2026.

Comparisons of debt and deficit totals over time are best viewed as a share of the economy. Based on the Congressional Budget Office's most recent economic projections, it is clear that the Republican budget would fail the key fiscal test of stabilizing debt as a share of the economy.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET RESOLUTION AND CBO ESTIMATES OF THE PRESIDENT'S 2017 BUDGET

(On-Budget Deficits, Unified Budget Deficits, and Debt Held by the Public, Billions of Dollars)

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| On-Budget Deficits: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Resolution | -\$583 | -\$542 | -\$674 | -\$729 | -\$785 | -\$897 | -\$893 | -\$863 | -\$946 | -\$1,009 |
| PB17 | -447 | -386 | -500 | -536 | -566 | -671 | -665 | -614 | -669 | -675 |
| Unified Budget Deficits: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Resolutions | -571 | -548 | -710 | -798 | -891 | -1,043 | -1,080 | -1,094 | -1,226 | -1,341 |
| PB17 | -433 | -383 | -518 | -585 | -651 | -791 | -826 | -813 | -917 | -972 |
| Debt Held by the Public: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Resolution | 14,593 | 15,199 | 15,955 | 16,792 | 17,714 | 18,787 | 19,901 | 21,033 | 22,302 | 23,692 |
| PB17 | 14,454 | 14,906 | 15,484 | 16,121 | 16,818 | 17,656 | 18,532 | 19,402 | 20,379 | 21,417 |
| Difference | | | | | | | | | | 2,275 |

Sources: <http://www.budget.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/S.Con.Res.RepealResolution.pdf>, pp. 5-6; <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/114th-congress-2015-2016/reports/51383-APB.pdf>, Table 2; Resolution unified deficits derived using off-budget deficits from <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/114th-congress-2015-2016/reports/51384-marchbaseline.pdf>, table 1

Compared to the President's Budget, which drives down deficits as a share of the economy and maintains our fiscal progress through smart savings from health care, immigration, and tax reforms while making critical investments in economic growth and opportunity, the Republican Budget would lead to significantly larger deficits in each year and add more than \$2 trillion in debt over the next decade.

Notably, the budget resolution also contains exceptions to existing Congressional budget rules that seem targeted towards making it easier to pass legislation that would further increase deficits.

Sincerely,

SHAUN DONOVAN,
Director.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, many of my Republican colleagues like to claim they care about the deficit. During President Obama's administration, there was an obsession over deficit and debt reduction—and, by the way, no praise for the President for reducing the deficit by a dramatic amount. Now many of those same Members who chastised President Obama for much smaller deficits than proposed in their budget are supporting this budget resolution.

I wish to say to my colleagues, you can't claim to be a fiscal hawk and support a budget that piles on trillions in additional debt. That is not being fiscally conservative; it is being fiscally hypocritical in the extreme. So far, my friend Senator PAUL of Kentucky has made this point forcefully. My question is, Will other Republicans stand with him and stand up against this fiscal hypocrisy?

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2017

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 3, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 3) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2017 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2018 through 2026.

Pending:

Sanders amendment No. 19, relative to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for the weekly conference meetings and the time in recess count equally against S. Con. Res. 3; further, that Senator SANDERS or his designee control the time from 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and finally, that there be 2 minutes equally divided in the usual form prior to the vote on the Flake amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, clarifying that recent request, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for the weekly conference meetings but that that time not count against S. Con. Res. 3.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the modified request is agreed to.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week the Senate began consideration of the ObamaCare repeal resolution, which is the first step in the process of repealing the law. It is time for repeal.

Seven years ago, ObamaCare was sold to the American people with a lot of promises. The law was going to reduce premiums for families. It was going to fix problems with our health care system without hurting anyone who was happy with their health coverage. If you like your health plan, you will be able to keep it, people all across this country were told over and over again. If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor—also a promise and claim that was made over and

over again. As everyone knows, every one of these promises was broken. Premiums for families have continued to rise. Millions of Americans lost health care plans that they liked. Americans regularly discovered that they couldn't keep their doctors and that choice of replacement was often limited.

These broken promises were just the tip of the iceberg. The law hasn't just failed to live up to its promises, it is actively collapsing, and the status quo is unsustainable. Premiums on the exchanges are soaring. Deductibles regularly run into the thousands of dollars. For 2017, the average deductible for a bronze-level ObamaCare plan is rising from \$5,731 to \$6,092. With deductibles like that, it is no wonder that some Americans can't afford to actually use their ObamaCare insurance.

I receive a lot of mail from constituents in my State struggling to pay for their health care. One constituent contacted me to say: "My ObamaCare premium went up from \$1,080 per month to \$1,775 per month," a 64-percent increase, \$21,300 a year for health insurance. Let me just repeat that, a 64-percent increase in premiums, \$21,300 a year for health insurance. That is like paying another mortgage. That is a lot more than many people pay for their mortgage, and of course that is before any deductibles or other out-of-pocket costs are considered.

Another constituent wrote to tell me, "Today I received a new premium notice from my ObamaCare insurance. My policy rate for myself, my wife and my teenage son has increased by 357 percent."

The problems on the exchanges aren't limited to soaring costs, unfortunately. Insurers are pulling out of the exchanges right and left. Health care choices are rapidly dwindling. Narrow provider networks are the order of the day. One-third of American counties have just one choice of health insurer on their exchange.

This is not the health care reform the American people were looking for.