

BIPARTISAN BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS REFORM ACT OF 2019

It is long past time to reduce the rancor and dysfunction that has dominated congressional budgeting. Building on the work of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform in the 115th Congress, the Bipartisan Budget and Appropriations Reform Act of 2019 would reform the congressional budget process to encourage working across the aisle to tackle our nation's fiscal challenges. Reforms include:

- **Biennial Budget Resolutions:** Establishes a biennial budget process by requiring budget resolutions to cover at least two years, or a biennium, while maintaining annual appropriations. Specifically, the budget resolution would provide two years of allocations to the Committees on Appropriations, which would then provide topline discretionary spending levels for each fiscal year of a biennium.
- **Annual Reconciliation:** Preserves annual reconciliation under a biennial budget.
- **Congressional Budget Completion Date:** Amends the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require Congress to complete action on the concurrent resolution on or before May 1 of each odd-numbered year.
- **Revising the President's Role:** Takes the President out of the biennial timeline to allow Congress to begin work on a budget before the President submits a request. Also requires the Executive Branch to submit an Annual Supplemental Budget with prior- and current-year fiscal data and credit re-estimates for the current year, separate from the President's policy proposals, no later than December 1 of each calendar year. This will allow for additional time to develop the Congressional Budget Office's baseline, Congress's budget resolution, and various appropriations bills.
- **Senate Budget Committee Membership:** Coordinates budget planning by placing the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Appropriations and Finance Committees on the Budget Committee.
- **Fiscal State of the Nation:** Requires the Budget Committees of the House and Senate to hold a biennial, joint hearing with testimony from the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the audited financial statement of the Executive Branch.
- **Tax Expenditures:** Includes total combined outlays and revenues for tax expenditures as an optional item in the budget resolution to provide greater transparency in the federal budget.