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**MacGuineas Says Biennial Budgeting a Step Toward Fiscal Restraint
June 25, 2014**

Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, testified before a House panel today about the broken federal budget process.

MacGuineas was part of a panel before the House Rules Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process on a bill (HR 1869) that would require biennial budgets and appropriations.

MacGuineas, a member of the Peterson-Pew Commission on Budget Reform, told the subcommittee:

"We believe that one option to improve the current budget process is to move to a two-year budget cycle. The primary benefit of biennial budgeting is the extra time it permits Congress and the executive branch to conduct proper oversight. The additional year would allow policymakers more time to evaluate performance and use the significant amount of data already tracked to improve programs. Committees could spend more times conducting hearings and investigations to find areas of waste, fraud, and abuse, or areas of new innovation or needed investment."

MacGuineas warned that even with biennial budgeting, Congress might not pass a concurrent budget resolution - something it hasn't done since FY2010 - or pass appropriation bills on time. And importantly, it would not take the place of making tough budget policy choices needed to address our long-term fiscal challenges.

"Biennial budgeting also does not solve the elephant in the room - our growing debt problems. To do this, Congress and the President should agree to a long-term framework which looks at all areas of the budget to bring spending and revenue more closely in line, should give the committees of jurisdiction the opportunity to develop the details in their parts of the framework, and should incorporate the necessary enforcement mechanisms to keep such a plan in place."

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