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**On the Menu: More Deficits
July 8, 2014**

Congress is returning with a lengthy list of items to address before the August recess, many of which carry a hefty price tag that could worsen our budget outlook if not handled responsibly. The legislative agenda in July includes a short-term patch for the Highway Trust Fund, a bill to reform health care for veterans, a supplemental appropriation to address the influx of child immigrants at the southern border, a permanent extension of bonus depreciation, and possibly extension of other expired tax breaks.

The following is a statement from Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget:

“Lawmakers have a full plate in front of them, a ravenous appetite for spending and tax cuts, and little interest in picking up the tab. On each of these issues, Congress should fully pay for any policy changes without relying on accounting gimmicks or waiving budget rules.”

“2014 has been the year of fiscal gimmicks and giveaways thus far. This list of policies members have wanted to pass -- from unemployment benefits to an SGR fix -- without honest offsets, just keeps on growing. As policymakers complain of not enough time as they race toward their recess, they should find honest ways to comply with spending caps and PAYGO, and not use gimmicks or declarations of emergencies to try to avoid paying the bills. Instead of sticking the next generation with an IOU, Congress should follow the simple principle that if something is worth doing, it's worth paying for.”

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