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Congress Should Consider Omnibus and Tax Extenders Separately, Says Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget *Bills Should Be Considered on Their Own Merits* December 15, 2015

Congress should consider the omnibus appropriations bill and any deal extending tax breaks separately.

“Keeping the federal government’s door open is not an excuse to jam through a massive deficit-financed tax bill,” said Maya MacGuineas, President of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. “The tax extenders package will have significant consequences on revenues and deficits well beyond the next fiscal year. It should get an up or down vote – based solely on its merits – without risking a government shutdown if it is rejected.”

Congressional negotiators are reportedly working on a deal that would permanently extend several tax breaks, temporarily extend other tax breaks, and delay implementation of several taxes in the Affordable Care Act. The package under consideration could reduce revenues by as much as \$700 billion over the next decade and could ultimately add over \$4 trillion to the debt over the next two decades if the temporary extensions and delays are continued.

“The omnibus appropriations bill will add to the deficit in Fiscal Year 2016 by exploiting the war spending loophole, but at least it will comply with the budget limits established by the Bipartisan Budget Act,” said MacGuineas. “By contrast, the tax deal being discussed would permanently reduce revenues below the levels set in the budget resolution adopted by Congress and increase deficits for the next decade and beyond.”

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