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**CRFB Reacts to the President's State of the Union  
January 24, 2012**

Tonight, President Obama gave his State of the Union address in which he presented his top priorities for the coming year. Although we are pleased that the President recognized the need for further deficit reduction, we are disappointed the he did not dedicate more time in his speech to discussing our medium and long-term fiscal situation.

"The State of the Union address is an opportunity to set the stage for the coming year on how the President intends to overcome challenges that threaten the country – challenges that must highlight our mounting debt," said CRFB president Maya MacGuineas. "The President did talk about reforming the tax code to reduce our deficit, but he simply did not go far enough in making deficit reduction a priority in this speech."

"The President missed an opportunity to throw down the gauntlet to Congress on the debt and demand a large, bipartisan debt reduction plan this year. We've punted on this issue for far too long, and the longer we wait the more difficult it will be to control rising debt and the closer we get to a potential crisis," continued MacGuineas.

"The question is whether the President and Congress will rise to the occasion and enact a comprehensive fiscal reform plan or whether they will waste everyone's time by instead relying on band-aids and budget gimmicks," added MacGuineas. "We shouldn't pretend that waiting until the next election will magically make the hard choices any easier. Our leaders need to act now – which means this year – to get this problem under control."

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