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**CRFB Reacts to Congressman Ryan's Budget Proposal  
March 12, 2013**

Today, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) released his FY2014 budget proposal. Congressman Ryan's proposal calls for significant spending reductions in order to balance the budget by 2023 and put debt on a very clear downward path from 77 percent of GDP by the end of 2013 to below 55 percent by 2023.

Congressman Ryan's budget resolution includes substantial reforms to health programs, especially Medicaid, and significant reductions in domestic discretionary spending and other mandatory spending programs. In total, spending reductions would equal \$4.6 trillion over ten years, according to the budget's own projections. Chairman Ryan also calls for revenue-neutral tax reform that would result in lower rates and reductions in tax expenditures.

"It is very encouraging to see an aggressive deficit reduction proposal that addresses many of the drivers of the nation's long-term fiscal challenges, including entitlement programs, in order to put the debt on a clear downward path," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "Chairman Ryan deserves praise for jump-starting the budget conversation, but this only works if it is the beginning rather than the end of the discussion."

"Although Chairman Ryan's budget effectively deals with our rising debt and growing entitlement costs, it does not lend itself to bipartisan support," said MacGuineas. "This budget phases in deficit reduction too quickly with too much coming from low-income programs and too little from revenue to be acceptable to the other side. As a starting point for discussions this year, Congressman Ryan's budget is helpful, but both sides of the aisle will need to compromise in order to actually enact deficit-reducing measures."

"In the coming days and weeks, we look forward to learning more about the House Budget Resolution as well as the Senate Budget Resolution scheduled to be released later this week," said MacGuineas. "If we hope to successfully address our mounting debt, the two documents will have to be merged. That means both parties must move past ideology and put everything on the table for the good of the country."

*For ongoing analysis of Congressman Ryan's proposals, see CRFB's The Bottom Line blog at <http://crfb.org/category/blog-issue-areas/fy-2014-budget>.*