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**“Going Big” Can Improve the Chances of Success
October 21, 2011**

Given recent reports of the challenges facing the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (Super Committee) in achieving their \$1.2 - \$1.5 trillion savings mandate, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget released an analysis today arguing that shooting for two to three times as much savings can actually increase the chances of the Committee's success.

“Without reforms to each area of the budget, including critical entitlement and tax reforms, it's difficult to see how the Super Committee could navigate the political constraints to achieve its target of at least \$1.2 trillion in savings,” said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. “However, a Go Big approach opens up a whole new world of fiscal possibilities. We find that putting more policies on the table actually brings more people to the table.”

In the analysis, CRFB argues that a Go Big approach can improve the chances of the Super Committee succeeding by:

- Allowing for the necessary political tradeoffs;
- Creating a sense of shared contributions;
- Allowing for the economic and political gains of a larger package that actually fixes the problem.

“A big solution to debt reduction is a win-win,” added MacGuineas. “It can improve the chances of the Super Committee succeeding while also offering the best possible way to put debt on a downward path this decade. We know that debt reduction involves tough political decisions as well as obstacles to attracting broad support. Fortunately, a Go Big approach can help forge a bipartisan solution that also sets the budget on a sustainable path. The political battle will be tough either way— we might as well do the right thing and fix the problem along the way.”

Read the CRFB analysis here: <http://crfb.org/document/going-big-could-improve-chances-success>