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## Statement by Maya MacGuineas, President of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget on the budget plan released today by The House Budget Committee March 15, 2016

Chairman Price should be commended for releasing a plan that calls for reversing the growth of our national debt, reforming entitlement programs, improving the budget process, and facilitating concrete action to begin reducing deficits. At a time when too few political leaders are even discussing the need to tackle our nation's record debt levels, it is extremely significant that members of the House Budget Committee acknowledge the importance of this issue.

But a budget is only as good as the will to follow it, and we remain concerned that trying to balance the budget while leaving so many parts of it untouched is unrealistic. After all, last year's budget called for \$5.5 trillion of deficit reduction, and Congress instead added nearly \$1 trillion to the debt. This budget risks meeting a similar fate, including by setting the stage for a potential budget-busting war supplemental later this year.

The budget also offers several reasons for hope. Enabling the immediate passage of \$30 billion in savings over two years and more than \$140 billion over ten years is a small but encouraging step in the right direction, as is the decision to provide every committee with instructions to achieve further savings. The budget also includes several useful budget enforcement mechanisms to crack down on gimmicks and impose greater discipline on mandatory spending, though it fails to extend that discipline to revenues.

Hopefully, the Senate will pass its own budget resolution, and then the two Houses will come together to pass a realistic but ambitious budget resolution that can be followed with real action to put the debt on a more sustainable long-term path.

[Read "Chairman Price Rolls out the FY 2017 House Budget."](#)

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For more information or to speak with a CRFB expert, contact [media@crfb.org](mailto:media@crfb.org).