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**With Super Committee Proposals on the Table  
We Now Need a Compromise  
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Over the past few days, details have begun to emerge from the Joint Select Committee (Super Committee) regarding both a Democratic and Republican offer to “Go Big” and exceed the \$1.2 trillion savings mandate. The Republican offer would reduce the deficit by about \$2.2 trillion, while the Democratic offer, principally authored by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), aims to reduce the deficit by about \$3 trillion over the next ten years.

“The best thing that could happen now would be for all parties to use these different proposals as a start at sincere negotiation. It’s time to come up with the needed savings — and then some. Both proposals are larger than the required savings of the Committee — they show that it may well be more feasible to make a deal by “going big” instead of piecemeal,” said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

While details regarding the specifics of the recommendations are still forthcoming, both plans reportedly achieve significant savings from federal health care spending, switching to a more accurate measure of inflation, the chained CPI, other mandatory spending, and additional savings from discretionary spending. The differences stem from the total level of savings, the level of savings from each area of the budget, particularly health care and the role of revenues in the plans.

“We believe that to be credible and viable, a package will have to be large enough to help stabilize the debt — which includes structural entitlement reforms and higher revenues as part of an overhaul to the tax system. The Super Committee has a unique opportunity to change the course of the country. Time is running short, and the period for posturing is over,” added MacGuineas. “We hope members of the Super Committee use these opening offers to move the discussion along and create a real deal — the kind that American families, businesses, and credit markets need.”

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