



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

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Contact: OMB Communications, 202-395-7254

**Statement by OMB Director Rob Portman on Budget Conference Report**

“The new Democratic majorities are standing by their misguided plans for tax hikes and big spending increases. Tax and spend is no way to balance the budget. It jeopardizes continued economic growth and job creation. And it means that taxpayers will be sending more of their hard-earned money to Washington.

“In the Budget he submitted earlier this year, the President demonstrated that a balanced budget can be achieved without raising taxes. Instead of relying on tax increases, the President’s Budget keeps annual spending under control and addresses our long-term budgetary challenge – the unsustainable growth in entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security.

“The new majority chose to go the other way: raising taxes on families and small businesses, increasing annual spending by more than 9 percent next year alone, and doing nothing to tackle the mounting problem of entitlement spending.

“In a letter to the Budget Conferees last week, we communicated our strong concerns, and made it clear that in order to ensure fiscal discipline I will recommend the President veto appropriations bills that exceed our request for discretionary spending.”

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