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Statement from OMB Director Rob Portman on the Senate Democratic Budget Proposal

“It is encouraging that the Senate Democratic Budget embraces the President’s goal of balance in 2012, but I am disappointed that their path to balance is paved with higher taxes, higher spending and what can only be characterized as budgetary slights of hand. What’s even more concerning is their proposal ignores our biggest budgetary challenge – the unsustainable growth in entitlements.

“Ending the President’s tax relief, which has clearly helped spur our strong economy, would hurt families, workers and job creators, and put our economy at risk. The President’s Budget shows that balance can be reached while making this important tax relief permanent.

“Failing to address our most significant budget challenge – the unsustainable growth of important entitlement programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security – is a missed opportunity and a disservice to future generations. We have a responsibility to address big problems – and the entitlements issue is the biggest budget problem we face. That's why the President’s Budget puts a down payment on reform with savings of \$96 billion over the next five years that will help preserve these programs for the future.”

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