



The Carleson Center for Public Policy

“Advancing the Reagan Agenda”

Founding Policy Board

March 12, 2012

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The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chairman
House Republican Study Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan:

The Carleson Center for Public Policy urges all members of the House of Representatives to vote in favor of H. Con. Res. 113: The Cut, Cap, and Balance Fiscal Year 2013 Budget proposed by the Republican Study Committee.

It is a serious plan with responsible measures for achieving fiscal sanity in an appropriate and reasonable time frame. The RSC budget will reach balance in just five years, as opposed to balancing the federal budget in 10 years at the earliest under the House Budget Committee's proposal. I would note that our neighbor to the north, Canada – whose 1994 fiscal mess was on par with our current fiscal disaster – managed to get its budget in shape in just four years.

Congress, which theoretically controls federal spending, operates on a two-year election cycle, and anyone who thinks that politicians (no matter how noble of mind and intention) will be able to resist the siren calls to bust any spending plan for five straight election cycles has clearly not paid any attention whatsoever to how we've gotten ourselves in this fiscal mess over the last four decades.

Washington has played a game with budgeting for decades, using incomprehensible definitions of "current spending" and other budget gimmicks. From time to time, good men and women have attempted to bring honesty to the process. However, it is unrealistic to design budgets that depend on five or more successive Congresses to stick to the necessary fiscal medicine of cutting, capping and balancing the budget.

The RSC Budget cuts discretionary spending *below* the 2008 levels before Congress and the current Administration increased the spending cost curve exponentially. It also protects vital defense projects from sequestration and creates a simpler, flatter and fairer tax code through the Jobs Through Growth Act that the RSC budget incorporates.

Perhaps the biggest single element for saving money— while simultaneously rescuing a critical part of our safety net— is the RSC budget's incorporation of the Medicaid and CHIP block grant proposed by the State Health and Flexibility Act (H.R. 4160), which more than doubles the Medicaid/CHIP savings achieved in the Ryan budget. In addition to repealing Obamacare, this bill grants states maximum flexibility to design health care programs that will meet the needs of their most vulnerable residents. It embodies the pure federalism approach to government envisioned by Ronald Reagan over 30 years ago – and it is way overdue.

If our countrymen are serious about surviving and passing the American Dream on to our children and grandchildren, they will raise their voices in support of the adults at the RSC to take charge of Washington spending.

Thank you again for taking this courageous step.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan A. Carleson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "A".

Susan A. Carleson
Chairman/CEO