



---

## SENATOR CLAIRE MCCASKILL HOLDING THE LINE ON SPENDING

---



**Authored Bipartisan Legislation to Cap All Federal Spending.** In 2011, Sen. McCaskill joined with Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN) to introduce the Commitment to American Prosperity (CAP) Act, legislation that would cap federal spending at 20.6% of GDP within ten years of enactment. Under the Corker-McCaskill bill, if Congress fails to meet the annual cap, the Office of Management and Budget would be required to make evenly distributed, simultaneous cuts throughout the federal budget.

**Authored Bipartisan Legislation to Cap Discretionary Spending.** In 2010, Sen. McCaskill joined with Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) to introduce legislation that would impose 5-year binding caps on total defense and non-defense discretionary spending. Under the Sessions-McCaskill bill, 67 votes would be needed in the Senate to waive the caps. The Sessions-McCaskill spending caps enjoyed broad bi-partisan support, including all 41 Senate Republicans. They came within one vote of the 60 needed to clear procedural hurdles to move forward in the Senate.

**Introduced a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution that Protects Social Security.** In December 2011, Sen. McCaskill joined with Senator Mark Udall (D-CO) to introduce an amendment to the constitution that would require the federal government to balance its budget every year. Unlike other proposed balanced budget amendments, this amendment would protect Social Security by preventing politicians from raiding the program or cutting benefits to decrease the deficit. The amendment also prohibits tax cuts for individuals making over \$1 million if the federal government is projected to run a deficit at any time in the future.

**Introduced Legislation to Establish a Line Item Veto.** In February 2012, Sen. McCaskill introduced a bill (S. 2086) that would allow the President to single out and strike down wasteful spending items. Since she came to the Senate, Sen. McCaskill has been working across the aisle with her colleagues, including Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), to advance line item veto legislation. Her proposal was championed by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and passed the House in 2012.

**Has Never Voted for a Bloated Omnibus Spending Measure.** Sen. McCaskill has consistently opposed bloated, omnibus spending measures. For example, she voted against the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act (H.R. 1105), because of it increased spending by 8 percent and included more than 8,000 earmarks.

**Supported a Bipartisan Budget Compromise.** Sen. McCaskill supported the Budget Control Act, which Congress passed and the President signed into law in 2011. This bipartisan compromise imposed binding caps on discretionary spending for the next 10 years, which will reduce deficits by \$1 trillion. The law also requires Congress to find an additional \$1.2 trillion in savings, and will impose across-the-board cuts on spending if Congress fails to come up with its own plan. Sen. McCaskill has urged Congress to come together on a commonsense compromise on deficit reduction, rather than let the automatic, across-the-board cuts occur.

**Opposed the Radical Ryan Budget.** Sen. McCaskill opposed the radical budget proposals introduced by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI). The Ryan budget would end Medicare as we know it by transforming it into a voucher system that would increase out-of-pocket costs for seniors by more than \$6,000 on average. The Ryan budget also slashes investment in key areas like roads, bridges, and education in order to pay for a massive tax cut to Millionaires. Sen. McCaskill supports responsible, balanced, bi-partisan approaches to reducing the deficit, not the lopsided, destructive approach taken in the Ryan Budget.

**Created the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight.** In 2009, Sen. McCaskill helped create the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight, a first-of-its-kind committee intended specifically to target waste, fraud and abuse in government contracting. As Chair of the new Subcommittee, McCaskill has led investigations into potential contracting fraud in nearly every federal agency, saving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars in the process.

**Established the Commission on Wartime Contracting.** In 2007, Sen. McCaskill joined Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA) to introduce a bill to establish an independent, bipartisan Commission on Wartime Contracting to study U.S. wartime contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill was inspired by the work of the “Truman Committee,” initially led by Sen. Harry Truman (D-MO) that investigated government waste during and after World War II. In 2011, the Commission issued its final report, which included finding that between \$31 and \$60 billion had been squandered in wartime contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan. McCaskill and Webb have joined to introduce legislation (S. 2139) that would implement the final recommendations of the Commission.

**Introduced and Passed Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act.** In 2009, Sen. McCaskill introduced the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2009 (S. 1600), legislation that would require that any tax cuts or increases in mandatory spending be deficit neutral. Unlike existing Senate rules, which simply require a 60-vote threshold for waiving Pay-Go, McCaskill’s bill would have the force of law. In January 2010, the Senate voted to include an amended version of McCaskill’s statutory pay-as-you-go legislation as part of a broader debate about the public debt limit. McCaskill’s pay-as-you-go legislation became law when that bill was signed into law by the President on February 12, 2010.

**Introduced Legislation to Eliminate Duplicative and Overlapping Programs.** In June 2011, Sen. McCaskill joined with Senators Tom Coburn (R-OK) and Rand Paul (R-KY) and Mark Udall (D-CO) to introduce an amendment intended to prevent the creation of duplicative and overlapping government programs. Specifically, McCaskill's amendment would require that a report be included with every bill considered by the full Senate to determine if the bill creates any new federal program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap any existing federal program, office, or initiative with similar mission, purpose, goals, or activities.

**Helped Push for the Creation of a Bipartisan Commission to reduce the deficit.** Senator McCaskill was an original co-sponsor of legislation in 2009 that would have created a bi-partisan commission to study and recommend legislation to address the federal deficit. The bill led to the creation of the President's Fiscal Commission.

## **EARMARKS**

---

**Never Requested an Earmark.** Sen. McCaskill has never requested a single earmark during her time serving in the U.S. Senate.

**Introduced Legislation to Permanently Ban Earmarks.** In November 2011, Sen. McCaskill partnered with Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) to introduce the bipartisan Earmark Elimination Act of 2011, legislation that would permanently ban earmarks from the legislative process. The legislation has been endorsed by multiple government reform organizations including Citizens Against Government Waste and the Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

**Established an Earmark Moratorium for FY 2010, FY 2011, FY 2012 and FY 2013.** In February 2010, Sen. McCaskill joined with Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC) to introduce S. 2990, a bill to establish an earmark moratorium for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. The proposal sponsored by Senators McCaskill and DeMint was adopted by the leadership in both the Senate and the House, effectively establishing an earmark moratorium for FY 2010, FY 2011, FY 2012 and FY 2013.

**Cosponsored a Bill to Establish a Searchable Earmark Database.** In May 2010, Sen. McCaskill joined Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) to seek passage of the Earmark Transparency Act (S. 3335), legislation that would require the Secretary of the Senate to establish a unified and searchable public database of all congressional earmarks.

**Introduced the Fiscal Discipline, Earmark Reform and Accountability Act.** In January 2009, Sen. McCaskill joined with Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Russ Feingold (D-WI) to introduce the Fiscal Discipline, Earmark Reform, and Accountability Act (S. 162), which would make it easier to remove earmarks from spending bills. Specifically, the bill would create a point of order against any appropriations bill or any amendment to an appropriations bill that contains an

earmark. It would also create a point of order against a conference report unless it is available on a publicly accessible congressional website at least 48 hours before the vote. These points of order could be waived with the support of two thirds of the Senate.

**Introduced Legislation to Help the Public Track the Earmark Process.** In March 2009, Sen. McCaskill introduced S. Res. 63, legislation that would help the public track the earmark process by increasing transparency and closing several loopholes in Senate ethics rules. Specifically, the bill would require all earmarks in appropriations and authorization legislation be included in the bill text, change the Senate rules to require that all earmark requests be posted online within 48 hours of when they are submitted, and allow a point of order to be raised against any bill that contains earmarks to private organizations and nonprofit entities.

**Supported Landmark Ethics Reform That Increased Earmark Transparency.** In August 2007, McCaskill voted for final passage of S.1, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. The bill, which became law in September 2007, overhauled congressional lobbying and ethics rules for members and their staffs. It also barred the Senate from voting on a motion to proceed to a bill unless information about each earmark in the bill is posted online in a searchable format for at least 48 hours before the vote.

**Won Passage of an Earmark-Free National Defense Authorization Act.** In December 2011, Sen. McCaskill won a major victory with the passage of an earmark-free National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This marked the first time in decades that Congress has passed an NDAA totally free of earmarks, due in large part to McCaskill's successful four year fight against the culture of earmarking. McCaskill, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, helped shape the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, which overwhelmingly passed the U.S. Senate and included a pay raise for U.S. troops. McCaskill won passage of an amendment to the NDAA that banned earmarks from the legislation, after an attempt was made by the U.S. House of Representatives to circumvent an existing moratorium on earmarks, and insert nearly one billion dollars in pet projects.

**Exposed Attempt to Circumvent Earmark Ban in the House.** In December 2011, Sen. McCaskill released a comprehensive report finding that members of the U.S. House of Representatives attempted to circumvent their own self-imposed ban on earmarks by adding hundreds of earmarks to the House's National Defense Authorization Act for 2012 (NDAA). McCaskill's report uncovered an elaborate scheme put in place by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon that was designed explicitly to allow his committee's members to earmark in violation of the ban on earmarks in Congress. Succumbing to pressure from McCaskill, McKeon stripped the \$700 million in earmarks from his bill, a clear admission that he and his colleagues had attempted to circumvent the earmark ban.