

- (923); 16-December; HR 2055
 - **Vote Note HR 2055 - Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012: NO**

Viewed in isolation, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 reduces total discretionary spending authority (those expenditures that don't require statutory changes, including war and emergency spending) from \$1.209 trillion in FY 2011 to \$1.181 trillion in FY 2012), or \$28 billion (2.3 percent). Viewed over the past five years, however, this still constitutes an increase of \$144 billion, in discretionary spending (13.5 percent).

This may constitute an improvement over the past year, but begs the question, "Does it put the nation back on the path to fiscal solvency?"

The overarching issue is what impact does this bill have in conjunction with total spending levels. Are we reducing spending enough to avert the fiscal collapse of the United States Government? The Ryan budget was only supportable because it included significant reform of mandatory spending that, together with a discretionary spending cap of \$1.019 trillion, put us on a trajectory that balanced the federal budget by the mid-2030's and paid off the national debt by the mid-2050's. H.R. 3671 would take our annual discretionary spending (in conjunction with all other bills) to \$1.181 trillion without any reform of mandatory spending.

All told, this bill cements total authorized federal spending for FY 2012 at \$3.693 trillion with revenue of only \$2.635 trillion, assuring another one trillion dollar-plus budget deficit. That means roughly \$13,000 of additional debt on every family of four (per capita x 4), which they will be required to repay through their future taxes.

Last year (FY 2011), total authorized spending amounted to \$3.650 trillion meaning that total federal spending has increased by \$43 billion, or about \$550 per family (per capita x 4) in the past year.

Proportionally, this is the same as a family earning \$26,350 that plans to spend \$36,930 next year, putting another \$10,580 on a credit card that already carries a balance of more than \$150,000. Rather than cutting its overall spending, it has increased it by \$43, while cutting only \$28 from its "discretionary" choices.

The question on HR 2055 comes down to this: "Is that family acting responsibly?"

- (924); 13-December; HR 3630

- **HR 3630 – Payroll Tax Cut Extension: NO.** Although the temporary payroll tax cut doesn't produce lasting economic growth, I support its continuation because it allows working families to keep more of their earnings at a time of declining incomes, shriveling assets and rising prices. But since the payroll tax funds Social Security, which is already in permanent deficit, these funds must be made up by other means. The healthy way to do so is HR 3551, which I cosponsored, to give every American the choice to receive the year of tax relief in exchange for delaying retirement by a month. HR 3630, however, adds \$167 billion to this year's already crushing deficit, purporting to repay it over the next ten years (in part) by tacking on additional fees to mortgages backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. This shifts the burden to new homebuyers, who will end up paying far more in new taxes (hidden in their mortgages) than they will get from the tax cut. The average family will save \$1,000 in payroll taxes, but pay an extra \$2,000 for every \$100,000 of mortgage principal they incur in the next ten years.

- (690); 1-August; S365
 - This act increases the debt limit by between \$2.1 and \$2.4 trillion, the biggest explosion of debt in American history. It allows the government to avoid spending reductions for the next two years while squandering our last best hope of averting a sovereign debt crisis. I am opposed to this measure for the following reasons: 1. The purported cuts, even if realized, are far below the \$4 trillion deficit reduction that credit rating agencies have warned is necessary to preserve the Triple-A credit rating of the United States Government. 2. It blows the lid off the House budget passed in April by more than a half-trillion dollars over ten years. 3. It makes no significant spending reductions for at least the next two years, essentially freezing spending at an unsustainable level. While the debt increase occurs this year, deficit reductions are to be spread over many years and could be reversed by future acts of Congress. 4. The spending caps are easily circumvented by declaring appropriations to be an emergency, a response to a "major disaster," or necessary for the "Global War on Terror." 5. The balanced budget amendment provisions are illusory because the amendment is completely undefined.

- (677); 29-July; S627
 - This measure immediately increases the debt limit by \$900 billion with conditional provision for an additional \$1.6 trillion, yet is unlikely to achieve savings sufficient to prevent a downgrade of the nation's credit rating. It increases spending author

- (606); 19-July; HR2560
 - <http://mcclintock.house.gov/2011/07/in-support-of-hr-2560-cut-cap-and-balance.shtml>

- (551); 12-july; HR2354
 - <http://mcclintock.house.gov/2011/07/the-high-cost-of-solar-subsidies.shtml>

- (538); 11-July; HR2354
 - <http://mcclintock.house.gov/2011/07/amendment-to-hr-2354-energy-and-water-appropriation.shtml>
- (494); 24 June; HR2278
 - <http://mcclintock.house.gov/2011/06/in-opposition-to-hr-2278-libya.shtml>
- (491); 23-June; HR1249
 - Vote Note June 23, 2011
 -
 - HR 1249 – America Invents Act: NO. This act turns the traditional American view of property rights on its head by changing the award of a patent from the first person who actually created an invention to the first person who files for a patent. In so doing, it violates Article 8, Section 1 of the Constitution that provides for “securing for limited times to ... inventors the exclusive right to their...discoveries.” In the American view, property rights are not conferred by government, but are among the natural rights of individuals that government exists to secure. Since Thomas Jefferson heavily influenced the Patent Act of 1793, the American government has recognized that a patent belongs to the actual inventor of a new discovery, regardless of whether someone else took the idea to the patent office first. This is not only a tremendous blow to individual inventors in a race with corporate conglomerates to bring an idea into practice by filing a patent, it introduces a pernicious concept into American law that shifts property rights from a natural right of the individual to a ministerial fiat of government.
- (459); 16-June; HR2112
 - HR 2112 – Agriculture Appropriations Act: NO. This is the appropriations act for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2011. My concerns are similar to those that I noted in my vote on the Homeland Security Appropriations Act: it is premature to move discretionary appropriations bills until there is agreement on reform of mandatory spending levels. In addition, I am disappointed to see the continuation of grants for marketing research and other programs that ought to be paid for by the affected parties and not by taxpayers.
- (412); 3-June; H CON RES 51
 - <http://mcclintock.house.gov/2011/06/kucinich-resolution-on-libya.shtml>
- (409); 2-June; HR 2017
 - **HR 2017 - Homeland Security Appropriations Act: NO. This is the appropriations act for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2011. I have a large number of objections to the administration of this department, but my over-arching concern is that it is premature to adopt discretionary appropriations without first dealing with mandatory spending reforms. Without curtailing mandatory spending, even appropriations within the House Budget parameters are unsustainable. My fear is that we will complete the appropriations process without any long-term reform and with unsustainable spending built into the discretionary side, taking our nation one year closer to a sovereign debt crisis.**
- (379); 31-May; HR1954
 - **HR 1954 - \$2.4 Trillion Debt Limit Increase: NO. The nation’s total debt now approaches the size of its entire economy. Every fiscal expert appearing**

before the House Budget Committee – including the President’s own debt commission -- has warned that continuing down this road will result in a sovereign debt crisis within the next two to five years and with it, the financial collapse of the United States Government.

- (378); 31-May; S1082
 - **S. 1082 – SBA Temporary Extension: NO.** Business investment should be made by investors using their own money – not politicians using taxpayers’ money. Government should not be picking winners and losers in the market place. If Congress is serious about helping small businesses, I have a modest suggestion: get out of their pockets, off their backs and out of their faces.
- (376); 26-May; S990
 - **Vote Note : S. 990 – (So-called) USA PATRIOT Act: NO.** This decidedly unpatriotic and unconstitutional act utterly shreds the Fourth Amendment’s requirement that a search warrant may only be issued upon probable cause and must specify the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized. The misnamed “PATRIOT” Act allows for “John Doe” roving wiretaps that are identical to George III’s “general warrants” that John Adams said provided the impetus for American independence and that the Fourth Amendment was specifically written to forbid.
- (375); 26-May; HR 1540
 - **Vote Note: HR 1540 - National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012: NO.** I have one over-riding objection to this measure, which authorizes the Defense budget for the coming year: Section 1034 of the bill provides an unconstitutional and open-ended delegation of authority to the President to initiate hostilities with any country he alone determines is “associated” with al-Qaeda or the Taliban. The Constitution is explicit that only Congress has the authority to declare war, and the American Founders were quite clear that so monumental a decision should be reserved to the representatives of all the people and never left to a single individual.
- (277); 15-April; H CON RES 34
 - <http://mcclintock.house.gov/2011/04/2012-budget.shtml>
- (268); 14-April; HR 1473
 - **HR 1473 – Continuing Resolution for the Funding of the Government: NO.** This measure purports to reduce federal spending by \$38.5 billion through the remainder of the year. (Bear in mind that \$12 billion of this reduction had already been made in the short-term CR’s that preceded it). I appreciate the fact that this measure begins to turn the ship, but I am concerned that we are not turning it nearly enough to avoid hitting the sovereign debt crisis that we can plainly see dead ahead. To paraphrase TR, “It means well. But it means well feebly.”
- (224); 1-April; HR 1255
 - **H.R. 1225, the Stop the Government Shutdown Act: NO.** I appreciate the good intent of this act, which “deems” H.R. 1, the Continuing Resolution to fund the government, to have been adopted if the Senate does not act by April 6th. I also appreciate the good intent of delaying payment to Members of Congress and the President if they fail to approve the government’s

spending authority and cause a lapse. The problem is that despite its good intentions, this bill violates three very clear Constitutional provisions that forbid such an act. Article I, Section 7 provides, “Every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States...” Article II Section 1 provides, “The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected...” The 27th Amendment provides, “No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of Representatives shall have intervened.” It is rare to find a bill that in a brief two pages can violate three distinct provisions of the United States Constitution – but this one does.

- (179); 15-March; HJ RES 48
 - H.J. Res. 48 – Three Week Continuing Resolution to Fund the Government: YES. This resolution makes actual reductions of \$6 billion, bringing to \$10 billion the total cuts approved since March 4th. However, at this rate, it would take 15 years to balance the budget – obviously far too long. Experts have warned us that we have at best five years to prevent a catastrophic fiscal crisis and possible collapse of the government. I support this rate of reduction only as a preliminary stop-gap for the current fiscal year. Much deeper cuts must be made in the annual budget for 2012, and I am still convinced that the House majority will stand behind its commitment to do so.
- (174); 11-March; HR 836
 - H.R. 836 - Two years ago, the President told us that we were all to blame for the housing bubble and the financial crisis that followed. No we’re not. Those families who passed up the get-rich-quick real estate seminars and who turned down the loans they couldn’t afford, or who settled for a smaller home or who rented because that’s what they could afford – they’re not to blame. And they shouldn’t be left holding the bag. Ninety one percent of Americans are making their mortgage payments not only because it’s the right thing to do, but because they know that the sooner the market corrects itself, the sooner our homes will begin to appreciate once again. By propping up bad loans and by undermining responsible homeowners, our government is extending the agony and postponing the day when the market stabilizes and homebuyers can safely re-enter the housing market.
- (171); 10-March; HR830
 - H.R. 830 - the FHA Refinance Program Termination Act: YES. This program was launched in March of 2010, funded with \$8 billion of TARP funds with the promise it would help homeowners subsidize their mortgages. Since then, only 245 applications have been submitted and only 44 mortgages have been refinanced. This bill pulls the plug on this embarrassing failure and recovers the unspent funds.
- (164);8-March; HR 525
 - **H.R. 525 - The Veterinary Public Health Workforce and Education Act: NO. Again, I’m also very grateful for veterinarians, but there is a difference**

between public health and poodle health and public health funds were not intended to extend to veterinarians.

- (163); 8-March; HR 570
 - **H.R. 570 - Dental Emergency Responder Act: NO.** Right up front I want to say, thank God for dentists. Anyone who has sat in a dentist's chair as long as I have knows how important they are. But they're not emergency responders, and allowing dental schools to tap a funds set aside for training emergency responders is too much of a stretch for me – especially when we are in the worst budget crisis in our nation's history.
- (36); 14-February; HR514
 - <http://mcclintock.house.gov/2011/02/on-extending-the-patriot-act---hr-514.shtml>
- (12); 18-January; HR292
 - **HR 292: Stop The Over-Printing Act. YES.** A small step in the right direction – halts the practice of printing bills and copies of such publications as the Congressional Record except by request. Hard to get an accurate cost savings – could be as much as \$3 million a year – not very big in a \$3 trillion budget but good news if you're a tree.
- (9); 7-January; H Res 26
 - H. Res. 26. Rule for Repeal of Obamacare: YES. This starts a new, three-day clock for House consideration of repealing Obamacare.
- (8); 6-January; H RES 22
 - H. Res. 22. Cut the Congressional Budget: YES. This is the first of the cuts in federal spending. This one starts with a five percent reduction in Congress' own budget. Small, but symbolic: If extended across the entire federal budget, that's \$150 billion in taxpayer savings. House Republicans have already proposed and voted on reductions of that amount in the 111th Congress – but were out-voted by majority Democrats. Not anymore.
- (6); 5-January; HRES 5
 - H. Res. 5. Adoption of the House Rules: YES. Among other things, the new House Rules guarantee Americans will have at least three days notice before important legislation is brought to the floor; it effectively caps spending by requiring that any increase in spending in one part of the budget be accompanied by a decrease in another; and it requires that all bills cite constitutional authority before they can be introduced.
- (2); 5- January: Speaker of the House
 - Election of the Speaker: JOHN BOEHNER. This is the vote that ended the reign of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and replaced her with a leadership team devoted to restoring American principles of individual freedom and limited government upon which our nation was founded and our prosperity depends.