



# CONGRESS SHOULD DO A REAL BUDGET WITH ALL SPENDING AND REVENUE

## Ask: Support the Comprehensive Congressional Budget Act of 2024

- H.R. 6953 by Reps. Blake Moore (R-UT), Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA).
- Empower committees and members to review and manage all policies in the federal budget.
- Replace a dysfunctional, incomplete process with a private- and public-sector best practice.

## Today's congressional budget process doesn't serve legislators or the public.

- Appropriations have shrunk to a quarter of federal spending. Congress enacts them late in a tightly controlled process that excludes most members.
- Direct ("mandatory") spending is far larger and growing fast, but members lack a regular, anticipated opportunity to coordinate direct spending, revenue policies, and appropriations in a cohesive way.
- Major trust fund programs are running out of reserves.
- Excessive debt undermines prosperity, creates risks.
- The budget resolution is a messaging vehicle and reinforces divides. Today's system promotes partisanship, polarization, and acrimony.

## The Comprehensive Congressional Budget Act would transform federal budgeting.

- Empower many committees to review programs and contribute to a complete budget. Appropriations Committees would keep "discretionary" spending, and authorizing committees would submit direct spending line-item amounts with proposed changes. Revenue submissions from the Ways and Means and Finance Committees should include bases, rates, and tax preferences. The Budget Committees would supervise.
- This annual, comprehensive budget would replace periodic and partial budget reconciliation.
- Appropriators would bundle authorizers' direct spending and revenue submissions – without substantive changes – with the appropriations bills in the full Appropriations Committee markup.
- All spending and revenue would be "on budget."

- Critical backstops:
  - If no budget resolution by April 15, baseline-allocations deemed for committees.
  - Budget committees would give Appropriations each committee's current law line items in case an authorizing committee doesn't make a submission.

## Why do a comprehensive budget?

- A budget should include everything.
- Greater stake for members of many committees in a successful annual process.
- Strengthens democracy and empowers members to take ownership of budget priorities and outcomes.
- Reduces polarization through greater openness and the need to build coalitions.
- Provides a viable vehicle to pursue budget goals such as primary balance or debt-to-GDP targets.
- Reveals tradeoffs, helps reduce overlap and fragmentation, supports coordination.
- Allows routine, incremental correction of imbalances with cover from other budget areas.
- Frees up floor time for authorizing legislation to update and improve programs.

## A comprehensive budget is far better than a leadership-driven omnibus deal.

- Includes all line items as a matter of course, not just whatever ad hoc provisions can get included.
- Lets members channel their unique talents in committees and on the floor.
- Involves many members at all stages.
- Strengthens Congress' power of the purse and ability to reclaim legislative powers.

## For additional information:

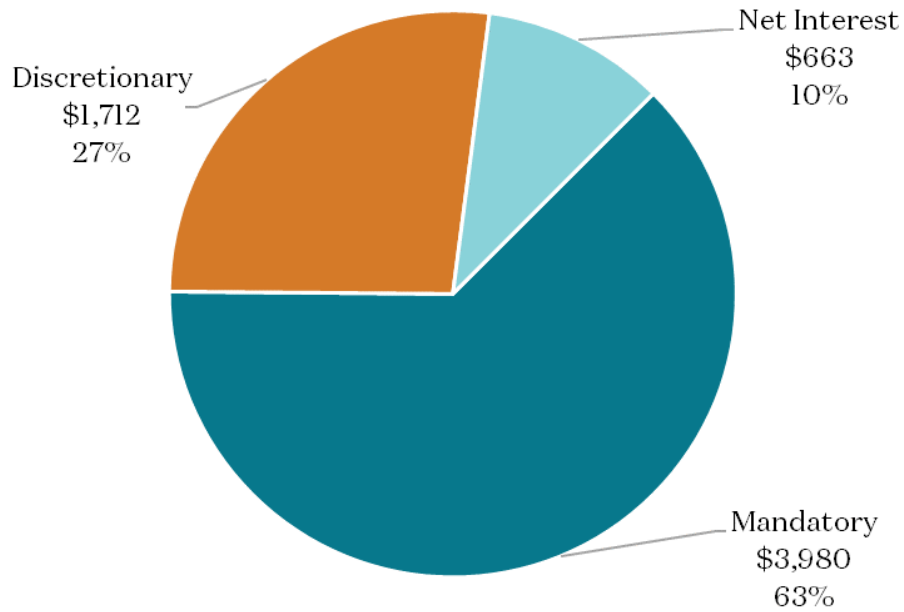
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Illustrating a comprehensive budget  
(FY2023, \$ billion, CBO's May 2023 projections)

Spending



Financing

