At the request of the House and Senate Committees on the Budget, the Congressional Budget Office periodically issues a compendium of budget options to help inform federal lawmakers about the implications of possible policy choices. This report, the latest in the series, presents 121 options for altering spending and revenues to reduce federal budget deficits.

The options come from a variety of sources, including legislative proposals, various Administrations' budget proposals, Congressional staff, other government entities, and private groups. The options are intended to reflect a range of possibilities rather than to rank priorities or present a comprehensive list. The inclusion or exclusion of a particular option does not represent an endorsement or rejection by CBO. In keeping with CBO’s mandate to provide objective, impartial analysis, this report makes no recommendations.

This report is the result of work by more than 140 people at CBO, whose names are listed on the following pages, as well as the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation. The report is available on CBO’s website (www.cbo.gov/publication/54667).

CBO continually seeks feedback to make its work as useful as possible. Please send any feedback to communications@cbo.gov.

Keith Hall
Director
December 2018
Overview
The spending estimates that appear in this report were prepared by the staff of CBO’s Budget Analysis Division (supervised by Theresa Gullo, Leo Lex, Sam Papenfuss, Christina Hawley Anthony, Tom Bradley, Kim Cawley, Chad Chirico, Sheila Dacey, David Newman, and Susan Willie); Health, Retirement, and Long-Term Analysis Division (supervised by David Weaver, Jessica Banthin, Alexandra Minicozzi, Lyle Nelson, and Julie Topoleski); and Financial Analysis Division (supervised by Sebastien Gay). Most of the revenue estimates were prepared by the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation, although some were done by CBO’s Tax Analysis Division (supervised by John McClelland, Ed Harris, and Joshua Shakin, as well as by Janet Holtzblatt, formerly of CBO) and Budget Analysis Division.

The discussions of the options were written and reviewed by analysts and managers throughout CBO in the four divisions just mentioned, the Microeconomic Studies Division (supervised by Joseph Kile and Chad Shirley), and the National Security Division (supervised by David Mosher and Edward G. Keating).

Molly Dahl coordinated work on the report and reviewed it. Wendy Edelberg, Mark Hadley, Jeffrey Kling, and Robert Sunshine reviewed it as well.

Chapter 1
Molly Dahl wrote Chapter 1, with contributions from Christina Hawley Anthony, Jordan Berne, Dorian Carloni, Noelia Duchovny, Michael Falkenheim, Ron Gecan, Theresa Gullo, Edward G. Keating, Leo Lex, Sam Papenfuss, Stephen Rabent, Lara Robillard, Molly Saunders-Scott, and David Wylie.

Chapter 2
Lara Robillard and Noelia Duchovny coordinated work on the options for mandatory spending, in collaboration with Michael Falkenheim, Ron Gecan, and Edward G. Keating. Lara Robillard also wrote the introduction to the chapter and reviewed options other than those involving health. Noelia Duchovny and Sarah Masi reviewed options involving health. The following analysts contributed to the budget options in the chapter:

- Nabeel Alsalam
- Anna Anderson-Cook
- Tiffany Arthur
- Elizabeth Bass
- Jordan Berne
- David Burk
- Sheila Campbell
- Jimmy Chin
- Molly Dahl
- Noelia Duchovny
- Justin Falk
- Kathleen FitzGerald
- Kate Fritzschke
- Heidi Golden
- Jennifer Gray
- Philippa Haven
- Tamara Hayford
- Keren Hendel
- Lori Housman
- Justin Humphrey
- Geena Kim
- Emily King
- Leah Koestner
- Jamease Kowalczyk
- Eric J. Labs
- Jim Langley
- Justin Latus
- Scott Laughery
- Kevin McNellis
- Susanne Mehlm
- Noah Meyerson
- Marina Miller
- Carla Tighe Murray
- Ryan Mutter
- Xiaotong Niu
- Yash Patel
- Daria Pelech
- Sarah Puro
- Lisa Ramirez-Branum
- Sarah Sajewski
- Matthew Schmit
- Logan Smith
- Emily Stern
- Robert Stewart
- Karen Stockley
- Aurora Swanson
- Natalie Tawil
- David Torregrosa
- Emily Vreeland
- Ellen Werble
- David Wylie
- Colin Yee
- Rebecca Yip
Chapter 3
Stephen Rabent coordinated work on the options for discretionary spending, in collaboration with Noelia Duchovny, Michael Falkenheim, Ron Gecan, and Edward G. Keating. Stephen Rabent also wrote the introduction to the chapter and reviewed options other than those involving health. Noelia Duchovny and Sarah Masi reviewed options involving health. The following analysts contributed to the budget options in the chapter:

Adebayo Adedeji  Sunita D’Monte  Daniel Ready
Nabeel Alsalam  Justin Falk  Robert Reese
David Arthur  Ann Futrell  Dawn Sauter Regan
Perry Beider  Heidi Golding  Matthew Schmit
Michael Bennett  Mark Grabowicz  Janani Shankaran
Jordan Berne  Jennifer Gray  Jon Sperl
Sheila Campbell  Raymond Hall  Aurora Swanson
William Carrington  Nadia Karamcheva  Adam Talaber
Megan Carroll  Edward G. Keating  Natalie Tawil
Kent Christensen  Leah Koestner  Derek Trunkey
Molly Dahl  Eric J. Labs  Matt Woodward
Meredith Decker  Carla Tighe Murray  David Wylie
Elizabeth Cove Delisle  David Newman
Terry Dinan  Sarah Puro

Chapter 4
Dorian Carloni and Molly Saunders-Scott coordinated work on the options for revenues, in collaboration with Noelia Duchovny, Michael Falkenheim, Ron Gecan, and Edward G. Keating. Dorian Carloni and Molly Saunders-Scott also wrote the introduction to the chapter and reviewed options other than those involving health. Noelia Duchovny and Sarah Masi reviewed options involving health. The following analysts contributed to the budget options in the chapter:

David Austin  Janet Holtzblatt (formerly of CBO)  Charles Pineles-Mark
Elizabeth Bass  Nadia Karamcheva  Sarah Puro
Kathleen Burke  Emily King  Stephen Rabent
Paul Burnham  Wendy Kiska  Mitchell Remy
Dorian Carloni  Jeff LaFave (formerly of CBO)  Molly Saunders-Scott
William Carrington  Jared Maeda  Kurt Seibert
Julia Christensen  Amber Marcellino  Joshua Shakin
Terry Dinan  Sarah Masi  Jennifer Shand
Justin Falk  Kevin McNellis  Naveen Singhal
Michael Falkenheim  Bayard Meiser  Jon Sperl
Nathaniel Frentz  Noah Meyerson  Ellen Streele
Kate Fritzche  Shannon Mok  Emily Stern
Ron Gecan  Nathan Musick  Aurora Swanson
Bilal Habib  Cecilia Pastrone  Natalie Tawil
Zhuang Hao  Allison Percy  David Torregrosa
Ed Harris 
Appendix

Stephen Rabent coordinated work on the options with smaller budgetary effects. The following analysts contributed to those options:

Rachel Austin   Kathleen Gramp   Robert Reese
Jordan Berne   Jennifer Gray   Mitchell Remy
Molly Dahl     Nadia Karamcheva  Jon Sperl
Terry Dinan    Jeff LaFave (formerly of CBO)  Aurora Swanson
Jacob Fabian   Amber Marcellino  Natalie Tawil
Justin Falk    Stephen Rabent   David Wylie
Ron Gecan      Daniel Ready

Editing and Publishing

The editing and publishing of the report were handled by CBO’s editing and publishing group, supervised by Benjamin Plotinsky, and the agency’s communications team, supervised by Deborah Kilroe. Christine Bogusz, Christine Browne, Loretta Lettner, Benjamin Plotinsky, and Elizabeth Schwinn edited the report. Casey Labrack and Jorge Salazar prepared it for publication. Annette Kalicki, Adam Russell, Simone Thomas, and Maria Thomason prepared the online version of the report.