



About This Document

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 | Lori Housman | Daria Pelech |
| Anna Anderson-Cook | Justin Humphrey | Sarah Puro |
| Tiffany Arthur | Geena Kim | Lisa Ramirez-Branum |
| Elizabeth Bass | Emily King | Sarah Sajewski |
| Jordan Berne | Leah Koestner | Matthew Schmit |
| David Burk | Jamease Kowalczyk | Logan Smith |
| Sheila Campbell | Eric J. Labs | Emily Stern |
| Jimmy Chin | Jim Langley | Robert Stewart |
| Molly Dahl | Justin Latus | Karen Stockley |
| Noelia Duchovny | Scott Laughery | Aurora Swanson |
| Justin Falk | Kevin McNellis | Natalie Tawil |
| Kathleen FitzGerald | Susanne Mehlman | David Torregrosa |
| Kate Fritzsche | Noah Meyerson | Emily Vreeland |
| Heidi Golding | Marina Miller | Ellen Werble |
| Jennifer Gray | Carla Tighe Murray | David Wylie |
| Philippa Haven | Ryan Mutter | Colin Yee |
| Tamara Hayford | Xiaotong Niu | Rebecca Yip |
| Keren Hendel | Yash Patel | |

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:

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|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 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:

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|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 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 Steele |
| Kate Fritzsche | Shannon Mok | Emily Stern |
| Ron Gecan | Nathan Musick | Aurora Swanson |
| Bilal Habib | Cecilia Pastrone | Natalie Tawil |
| Zhuang Hao | Allison Percy | David Torregrosa |
| Ed Harris | | Emily Vreeland |

Appendix

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

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|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 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.