

Our Nation is Crumbling Under the Staggering Debt Crisis - Getting our Fiscal House In Order Must Be More Than Rhetoric

American families make and follow a budget to keep themselves financially solvent. Our government should do the same!

We, as a country, are at a critical juncture. As a nation, we are in a debt crisis, and we must reduce our deficit by reining in out-of-control spending and reforming Social Security and entitlements (like Medicare or Medicaid). We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow.

Our country cannot continue to tread down the same worn path. We cannot continue to borrow money and live beyond our means. It is immoral to continue to pile deficit upon deficit and mortgage our children's futures for the convenience of the present.

\$ The Staggering Numbers: Our national debt is \$16.74 trillion, which is 574 percent of annual federal revenues. Each American's portion of the debt is \$52,962. By 2020, it is expected that we will be spending \$1 trillion interest on the debt. During President Barack Obama's first two years as president, our government overspent by more than \$1 trillion each year. According to Public Notice, we will spend over \$252 billion of net interest this year on the debt. According to the Heritage Foundation, for every \$6.80 the federal government collected in taxes in 2012, it spent \$10. Consequently, \$3.20 out of every \$10 spent was borrowed.

\$ How Does the Government Spend Our Money: About one-third of our spending is discretionary, controlled by Congress (defense and non-defense like education); the other 63 percent is spent on mandatory programs which includes Social Security and entitlements like Medicare and Medicaid. These programs run on autopilot with annual spending determined by formulas already written into law. They are not budgeted annually which makes spending on entitlements and Social Security difficult to control.

\$ Reducing the Nation's Deficits is a Sound Bite That Doesn't Address the Debt Crisis: A deficit is when more money is spent during a month than is received. The amount of money borrowed is the debt. Interest must be paid on the debt. If deficits occur each month, then more money is borrowed which increases the debt. This causes the interest payments to grow, and it can become the largest item in the budget. Eventually, only the interest payment can be made, and

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there will be no money left for anything else. The reality is that reducing the deficit continues to increase the debt.

§ **Our Children and Grandchildren Will be Left Holding the Bag for Our**

Irresponsibility: The government does not have any money. It does not produce anything. The government cannot spend one dime on any spending project without first taking that dime from the person who earned it. The bottom line is our government takes money from taxpayers and borrows more from future generations!

Live Out the Truth . . .

Oppose National Debt

Congress must lead our country in a new direction taking significant steps to address our debt crisis.

1. Please ask your representative and senators to oppose any increase to the debt limit unless real spending cuts equal to the amount of the increase are made. While we recognize that America is obligated to pay the debts it has accumulated, it is immoral that our federal government keeps borrowing and spending our children's futures. American families must live within their means or face severe consequences for their failures to do so. It is unconscionable that our government does not face any significant consequences for their failures and is allowed to simply print more money.
2. Please ask your representative and senators to oppose any continuing resolution that funds the government at levels higher than set by the sequester. The Budget Control Act of 2011 set up the sequester so that if the Super Committee (Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction) did not come up with cuts equal to how much the debt ceiling was previously increased, automatic cuts would be made.
3. Please ask your representative and senators not to set aside the sequester cuts unless real spending cuts equal to the sequester are made. While it is much better to have targeted cuts rather than across the board spending cuts, the bottom line is that the Super Committee was not able to reach an agreement so the sequester went into effect. The sequester has provided the fiscal restraints needed on our government.

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