



For Immediate Release
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Our National Budget

It is extremely difficult to get out of debt, whether you are an individual, a family, or even a country. Serious conversations have to be had and hard decisions have to be made regarding the causes of the debt and how to best handle them. The decisions that are made can define a future. While I applaud the President for coming up with a plan that he believes will help the United States get its fiscal house in order, the fact of the matter remains that his proposed budget does not tackle the hard decisions and merely kicks the can down the road for our children and a future administration to deal with.

One of the key solutions in the proposed budget is to let the Bush Tax cuts expire on the "wealthy." President Obama classifies wealthy as individuals making more than \$200,000 a year and families making more than \$250,000. This is important to Fairfield County because 15% of our friends and neighbors fall into this category and many others are not too far below it. I think that the President would be hard pressed to explain to any family of 4 living in the 4th District that they are in the lap of luxury.

It doesn't take a CPA to know that the Tax Code is riddled with loopholes, special interest giveaways and credits. The problem that the President doesn't understand is not that certain demographics need to pay more; it's that everyone needs to pay what they are supposed to. We can simplify the Tax Code by closing many of these loopholes, and we will still be able to generate revenue for the country while lowering the total rates for everyone. Of course doing so will be hard work, but we don't elect our leaders to take the easy way out. When I am in Washington I will draft and support legislation that pushes for REAL tax reform.

The budget also promised \$850 Billion in savings from ending the wars and steers some \$230 Billion of that into highway infrastructure. The problem that the President fails to understand is that the United States was borrowing money to finance those wars. Ending them does not all of a sudden give the government extra money to play with, it means that we can stop borrowing. In order to spend money that would otherwise be spent on the wars (i.e. on highways), we would have to continue to borrow.

Perhaps the most important problem with the President's proposed budget is that it does nothing to address two of the biggest problems causing the country's deficit,

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Social Security and Medicare. Costs for these programs are spiraling out of control and they are being brought to the brink of insolvency. Still, potential solutions require hard work and right now no one in Washington seems to be willing. We must find a way to keep the promises that these programs have made to our seniors. We can't afford to kick the can down the road any more. When I am in Washington I will support policies that contain real solutions for Social Security and Medicare, that keep them solvent and that provide for their future regardless of which party proposes them.

There is an old saying that in every crisis is also an opportunity. We are in a time of crisis right now, but it is also a time of opportunity. We don't need politics as usual and partisan bickering. We need to have the tough conversations. We need to make difficult decisions. We need to define our future.

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