



## S. Con. Res. 11—Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution Conference Report (Enzi, R-WY)

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**FLOOR SCHEDULE:** S. CON. RES. 11 IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED ON APRIL 30, 2015 UNDER A [CONFERENCE REPORT RULE](#).

**TOPLINE SUMMARY:** The [conference report](#) to accompany S. con Res. 11 would cut spending by \$5.3 trillion compared to current policy and balance the federal budget in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. The joint explanatory statement of the conference committee can be found [here](#). The summary provided by the House Budget Committee can be found [here](#), and summary tables can be found [here](#).

**CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:** Some conservatives may be concerned that the conference report was only made publicly available on [docs.house.gov](#) at 3:08 pm on May 29, 2015, in violation of the House Republican 3-day rule.

- **Expand** the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: **No**, the conference report would outline policies to reduce the size and scope of the federal government.
- **Encroach** into State or Local Authority?: **No**
- **Delegate** Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: **No**
- **Contain** Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: **No**

### DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY S. CON. RES. 11:

**Balance Date:** The conference report would balance the budget in FY 2024, once the macroeconomic effects of the budget as calculated by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) are taken into account.

**Overall Spending:** The conference report would reduce by more than \$5 trillion compared to current law.

**Taxes:** The conference report calls for revenue-neutral pro-growth comprehensive tax reform.

**COST:** The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) does not score budget resolutions or conference reports that accompany budget resolutions.

However, CBO has provided [supplementary analysis](#) of the conference report's budgetary and economic outcomes over the 2016–2025 period, assuming certain paths for federal revenues and spending (excluding interest payments).

Under this framework, CBO projects that the cumulative deficit over the 2016–2025 period—excluding interest savings and macroeconomic effects—would be roughly \$5 trillion lower than in CBO's current-law baseline, as adjusted to reflect recently enacted legislation.

Under budgetary paths, but not particular policies, specified in the 2016 conference report, total debt would be smaller than in CBO's baseline. Economic output would be lower in the next few years but higher thereafter.

**Obamacare:** The conference report would fully repeal Obamacare.

**Reconciliation:** The conference report includes reconciliation instructions three House committees, including the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means. In addition, the conference report would provide reconciliation instructions for the Senate Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. The Committees would be required to report legislation to fulfil the reconciliation instructions by July 24, 2015. The reconciliation instructions contain specific language for the repeal of the president's health care law as called for by [RSC Chairman Flores](#).

**Medicare:** A premium support system for new retirees would go into effect in FY 2024. This is the same year as premium support would have been implemented under the FY 2014 and FY 2015 House Republican budgets.

**Medicaid:** The conference report would convert Medicaid to a block grant to the states.

**Social Security:** The conference report would call for legislation to prevent the near term insolvency of the Disability Insurance program, improve the administration and coordination of benefits, and increase employment opportunities for disabled workers.

**Discretionary:** Total base discretionary budget authority for FY 2016 would be \$1.016 trillion, consistent with the current law Budget Control Act caps. A table showing the discretionary levels can be found [here](#).

**Defense:** The conference report sets base defense funding at \$523 billion in FY 2016, consistent with the current law BCA cap. Base defense spending would grow to \$662 billion by FY 2025.

**War on Terror:** Total funding for the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT/OCO) is set at \$96 billion in FY 2016. The Conference Report does not include a point of order against GWOT/OCO funding at a higher level than the president's budget that was originally included in the Senate budget.

**Budget Reform:** The conference report would establish a point-of-order against certain changes in mandatory programs (CHIMP). Specifically, the conference report would cap CHIMP levels at \$19.1 billion in FY 2016 and FY 2017 and reduce the level to \$17 billion in FY 2018 and \$15 billion in FY 2019.

Because of the CBO scoring conventions, an appropriations bill can offset increases in discretionary spending if it reduces mandatory spending in the first year of the budget window. These CHIMPS are often just gimmicks that shift the timing of mandatory spending, and allow increases in discretionary spending year after year using the same "offset" over and over.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** H. Con Res. 27, the House FY 2016 budget resolution, was introduced on March 20, 2015. The House Budget Committee marked up the budget on March 19, 2015, and reported it by a 22 – 13 vote. On March 25, 2015, the House passed H. Con. Res. 27, as amended, by a roll call vote of [228-199](#). A conference committee was appointed to reconcile the differences between H. Con. Res. 27 and the Senate-passed budget resolution S. Con. Res. 11

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:** A constitutional authority statement is not required.

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