

KEVIN McCARTHY

M A J O R I T Y W H I P

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

JULY 26, 2011

OVERVIEW:

NATIONAL REVIEW EDITORS' ENDORSEMENT

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

YUVAL LEVIN, EDITOR OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS

QUIN HILLYER, CENTER FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

MITT ROMNEY, FORMER MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR

GROVER NORQUIST, AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

WILLIAM KRISTOL, WEEKLY STANDARD

JAMES C. CAPRETTA, ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

FRED THOMPSON, FORMER U.S. SENATOR (R-TN)

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

CHAIRMAN PAUL RYAN (R-WI)

REPRESENTATIVE BILL FLORES (R-TX)

NATIONAL REVIEW EDITORS ENDORSEMENT [DEBT BURDENS, JULY 27](#)

“[A]s a way to begin to control Washington’s spending, and to avoid the potential economic and political costs should the debt fight go wrong, [Speaker John Boehner’s plan] is a worthy framework.”

“...[House GOP freshmen] have already made a difference. Without them, a clean debt-limit increase or a Gang of Six deal would have likely passed Congress. Without them, there would be no spending cuts at all. But a plan that does everything we conservatives think necessary to secure our fiscal future cannot be enacted in today’s Washington.”

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL [THE GOP’S REALITY TEST, JUNE 27](#)

“The question now is whether House Republicans are going to help Mr. Boehner achieve significant progress, or, in the name of the unachievable, hand Mr. Obama a victory.”

YUVAL LEVIN [NRO, BOEHNER’S ACHIEVEMENT, JULY 26](#)

“As the details of the Boehner bill become clearer, it’s increasingly apparent that the bill is just what the moment calls for: significant cuts achieved through statutory sequestration caps, no tax increase, no backsliding on entitlement reform or implicit acceptance of Obamacare, a path to another process that could lead to more cuts without tax increases, and the setting of a precedent that from now on increases in the debt ceiling must be accompanied by proportional spending cuts.”

QUIN HILLYER [CENTER FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, JULY 26](#)

Office of the Majority Whip

Honorable Kevin McCarthy (CA-22)

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“The history is this: Never before has Congress used the debt ceiling hike to force serious budget savings. *Any* successful use of this debate toward that end should be counted as a significant accomplishment.”

FORMER MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY ([NRO, JULY 26](#))

“Governor Romney thinks President Obama’s leadership has been an historic failure. He applauds Speaker Boehner for standing firm against raising taxes when our nation can least afford them,” said Andrea Saul, a spokeswoman for Romney.

GROVER NORQUIST/AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM (JULY 25)

“ATR applauds House Republicans for providing another tangible plan to cut spending and avoid default. Consistent with Leadership’s promise, this plan would implement the House-passed Cut, Cap and Balance Act in a way that would be successful in both chambers. This plan would cut trillions of dollars from the federal budget without raising taxes.” (Emphasis added)

WILLIAM KRISTOL ([A TIME FOR CHOOSING, WEEKLY STANDARD, JULY 27](#))

“To govern is to choose. To vote is to choose. To vote against John Boehner on the House floor this week in the biggest showdown of the current Congress is to choose to vote with Nancy Pelosi.

...Success for Boehner now—whatever mistakes he and others have made in recent weeks and months—makes more likely the defeat of Obama in 2012. This in turn will make possible the repeal of Obamacare and fundamental conservative budget and policy reforms with a new president in 2013.”

JIM CAPRETTA, NATIONAL REVIEW ([“GETTING TO YES,” JULY 25](#))

“House Republicans must realize that, at this stage, they have to pass a credible plan through their chamber. Having rejected the Obama ‘grand bargain,’ they need to show the country they are willing to pass a debt-limit increase on reasonable terms to avoid the real, if sometimes exaggerated, risks associated with a debt limit crisis.

... “Republicans have successfully dodged several bullets to this point. It’s now time for them to see that they are in a good position to close a deal on their terms — and then move on.”

FRED THOMPSON ([OPEN LETTER TO HOUSE REPUBLICANS, NRO JULY 26](#))

“At the beginning of the debt-ceiling debate, a realistic, optimistic outcome essentially would have been this: The Republicans would take the initiative and put their plan before the American people. The debt-ceiling increase would be accompanied by corresponding spending cuts. There would be no new taxes. You would drive a hard bargain in the face of unrelenting presidential and Democratic demagoguery — some of it on national television — drawing the attention and focus of the American people to the truth about our country’s fiscal and economic situation.

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In this optimistic scenario, President Obama's duplicity would become apparent, and he'd be politically diminished as a result. With his eyes firmly fixed on his own reelection, his political journey would take him from first, calling for a budget with billions in new spending, to second, demanding a "clean" debt-limit bill with no cuts, to third, a proposal for a "big deal," including vague promises of trillions in spending cuts, to fourth — in order to ensure that such a deal was never accepted — making a demand for billions in additional "revenues" over and above what he previously agreed to accept.

...My friends, within the next few days, all of this will have happened. I respectfully suggest that you rake in your chips, stuff them in your pockets, and tell the dealer to deal the next hand."

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN ([NRO, GRADING THE PLANS, JULY 26](#))

Timing: ...The Boehner plan is a way to meet the need to raise the debt limit. Moreover, the Boehner plan forces Congress to address entitlements sooner (six months) rather than later. Good on both fronts.

Size: ...The projected debt explosion is fundamentally a spending explosion, so policies that address growth will be more convincing to markets than a "large" deal that is dominated by a futile attempt to tax away the problem.

The bottom line: The ideal debt-limit package would combine up-front discretionary cuts with medium-term discretionary controls and real policy changes to entitlement programs that address the spending explosion and display to international capital markets the ability of the United States to address the debt threat. The Boehner plan is not ideal, but certainly is a strong B+. The Reid plan, in contrast, is a gentleman's C at best."

FROM YOUR COLLEAGUES:

CHAIRMAN PAUL RYAN ([A STEP FORWARD, BUT A LONG JOURNEY REMAINS, JULY 26](#))

"The Budget Control Act takes an important step in the right direction...without resorting to Senator Reid's gimmicks and without imposing the president's preferred tax increases on American families and the struggling economy.

This bill is far from perfect. We still have a long way to go toward getting the key drivers of our debt — especially federal health-care spending — under control. But considering that House Republicans control only one-half of one-third of the federal government, I support this reasonable, responsible effort to cut government spending, avoid a default, and help create a better environment for job creation."

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REP. BILL FLORES [BLANK-CHECK SPENDING: CRUSHING AMERICA'S FUTURE, JULY 26](#)

“Unlike the eleventh-hour plan from Senate Majority Leader Reid and Senate Democrats and the non-existent plan from the White House, the House Republican plan is serious about cutting spending. It may not be the perfect plan, but it is the result of negotiations with Senate Democrats and it heeds worries by credit rating agencies to prevent a default, which could devastate the economy. Our debt crisis is a result of Washington spending money it does not have and leaving American taxpayers with the growing tab – which the president calls “shared sacrifice.”