

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 1, 2021

Dr. Phillip Swagel  
Director  
Congressional Budget Office  
Ford House Office Building  
D St. SW & 2nd St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Director Swagel:

Democrats in the House and Senate are in the midst of passing a partisan bill with multi-trillion dollar implications for federal spending, revenues, and deficits. As we are all well aware, the Majority is using the fast-tracked reconciliation process to carry out their tax and spend schemes to permanently increase the size of the government and the nation's debt. Given the Majority's intent to completely ignore Senate committees, and the limited debate and consideration for the measure before it comes to the Senate floor, it is critical that the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provide Senators and the public with information related to the fiscal consequences of the reckless changes being proposed.

We understand the massive undertaking that estimating the budgetary effects of this bill entails and are appreciative of the efforts of your staff. Unfortunately, the House continues to process legislation in a manner meant to hide the true cost to American taxpayers. We are concerned that the bill is currently being redrafted behind closed doors in order to avoid making estimates available. In an effort to increase public transparency, please provide answers to the following:

1. As of the writing of this letter, only four of the thirteen House authorizing committees' reported reconciliation recommendations have received written cost estimates. What is the projected completion date for the remaining nine sets of recommendations?
2. Earlier this week, the House Budget Committee reported a reconciliation bill, H.R. 5376, composed of the instructed committees' recommendations. When will CBO release an estimate of this text?
3. What is the gross level of new spending in the House Budget Committee reported text?
4. What is the total projected deficit increase from H.R. 5376, with and without related interest costs?

5. Do any of the titles included in the House Budget Committee reported text increase the deficit more than the associated deficit instructions included in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2022? If yes, for which committees and by how much?
6. Do any of the titles included in the House Budget Committee reported text increase the deficit in any fiscal year after 2031? If yes, for which committees and by how much?
7. Information on spending subject to future appropriation is particularly important to understand the costs of any piece of legislation, as there are currently no statutory limits on this type of spending. Is CBO able to provide a detailed analysis and explanation of all spending subject to appropriation included in H.R. 5376 or any of the texts reported by authorizing committees in response to reconciliation instructions that have not received formal CBO estimates at this time? If yes, please provide.
8. Is CBO able to provide a detailed analysis and explanation of all private sector and intergovernmental mandates included in H.R. 5376, or any of the texts reported by authorizing committees, in response to reconciliation instructions that have not received formal CBO estimates at this time? If yes, please provide.
9. Has CBO been instructed to delay or prioritize any other work in place of dedicating resources to finish either the formal cost estimates of H.R. 5376 as reported by the House Budget Committee or the measures reported by the respective authorizing Committees as part of the fiscal year 2022 reconciliation process pursuant to the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget? If so, which Committee or office has made such a request and is CBO being asked to prioritize work on non-public text?
10. If CBO has been instructed to delay or prioritize any other work instead of the currently reported reconciliation texts, what is the basis for ignoring the agency's responsibilities outlined in Section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act?
11. If CBO is prioritizing other work instead of the publicly available and reported text of the reconciliation bill, on what date or series of dates were CBO analysts instructed by CBO management to stop, either permanently or temporarily, estimates on the reported texts? Please advise on each individual committee reported product.
12. Once text is made public for the House Rules Committee, how long would it take CBO to produce a formal cost estimate with detailed analysis of the direct spending and revenue effects of each section, a description of mandates (as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act) imposed and related costs by the legislative proposal, and detailed information on federal costs subject to future appropriations?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We request that you provide a written response to this request as soon as possible, but no later than Wednesday, October 6, 2021. Should you have any questions, please have your staff contact Nick Myers of the Budget Committee Republican staff or Jane Lee of the Republican Leader's Office.

Sincerely,



Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate



Lindsey O. Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget