

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 9, 2018

Dr. Keith Hall
Director
Congressional Budget Office
Ford House Office Building
D St. SW & 2nd St. SW
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Hall:

The baseline projections of spending and revenues that the Congressional Budget Office regularly publishes are important because they typically underlie the budget resolutions prepared by the Senate and House Budget Committees. These projections are also the basis for CBO's measures of costs associated with proposed legislation. Given the importance of the baseline, it is imperative that CBO regularly assess the quality of its estimates to refine its methods and improve the accuracy of its future projections.

We understand that after each fiscal year ends, CBO undertakes a detailed review of the actual outlays reported by the Administration for the year to assess the quality of its projections for that year and to evaluate how projections can be improved. This is an important step, and we believe that public release of this information could help build confidence in the quality of the estimates that CBO prepares and the rigor with which CBO approaches its work. We request that CBO prepare annually, beginning with fiscal year 2017, a public Analysis of Actuals report that describes that review for the prior fiscal year, detailing how the analysis was conducted, the reasons why CBO's outlays projections differed from actual amounts, and how CBO plans to improve its projections in the future based on what the agency learned from the analysis.

We thank you for your continued service to the Congress and commitment to transparency.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Enzi
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Budget



Stephen A. Womack
Chairman
House Committee on the Budget