



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4206
**Co-sponsor the “Legally Binding Budget Act”
to Give Our Budget the Force of Law**

Original Cosponsors (7): Ryan (WI), Hensarling (TX), Lankford (OK), Young (IN), Stutzman (IN), Mulvaney (SC) and Chaffetz (UT)

Dear Colleague:

Recently, I introduced H.R. 3575, the “Legally Binding Budget Act” which would establish joint resolutions on the budget. **This effort would give the budget the weight of law.**

“The Legally Binding Budget Act” fundamentally reforms the budget process by requiring the budget be passed as a joint resolution. Under current law, the budget resolution is a concurrent resolution that is never presented to the President for his consideration.

Requiring a joint resolution would encourage agreement between the House, Senate, and the President on the budget at the beginning of the budget process. Additionally, the contents of this legislation would be strictly limited to prevent the joint budget resolution from becoming a vehicle for unrelated legislation.

Like all laws, a joint resolution will require the signature of the President (or a two-thirds majority of both chambers’ overriding a veto) to be enacted. Should the joint resolution pass the House and Senate and fail to become law, the resolution would be deemed to be in force for purposes of governing congressional consideration of legislation with fiscal implications, thus ensuring that a veto would not unduly delay consideration of legislation by Congress.

The bill also codifies an alternative timetable for the budget process that applies in the first year of a new President’s term reflecting the historic practice of a new President’s submitting his first budget request no later than the first Monday in April.

I invite you to become a cosponsor of this bill which would establish joint resolutions on the budget. To join as a cosponsor or for more information, please contact Jonathan McNabb of my staff at jonathan.mcnabb@mail.house.gov, or 5-4233.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Black".

Diane Black
Member of Congress