

Federal budget deal confirms bipartisan disregard for fiscal responsibility

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While the lack of bipartisanship in Congress is often decried by the well-meaning, it is too often the case that bipartisan agreements are precisely the wrong thing for the country.

Such is the case with the recently announced federal budget deal and the bipartisan desire to spend as much money as politicians can get away with.

“Federal budgeting has descended from irresponsible to reckless,” notes Chris Edwards of the Cato Institute. “This year, the government will raise \$3.5 trillion, borrow \$1 trillion, and spend \$4.5 trillion ...”

But rather than correct for this, leaders of both parties and the president just want the spending binge to continue.

On Monday, it was announced that the Trump administration and congressional leaders agreed to a two-year plan allowing discretionary spending to rise \$320 billion and suspending the debt limit for two years.

It’s apparently not enough for both parties that the Congressional Budget Office is projecting that the federal government will soon have trillion dollar-a-year budget deficits for the next decade.

President Trump, for his part, took to Twitter to celebrate this fiscal irresponsibility and sell it to his supporters, saying, “This was a real compromise in order to give another big victory to our Great Military and Vets!”

Apparently this is what the president’s supposed negotiating prowess brought the brought the country: more spending, more debt.

According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the deal is expected to “add roughly \$1.7 trillion to projected debt levels over the next decade. This estimate is the net effect of \$1.5 trillion in discretionary spending increases, \$250 billion in interest costs, and just \$55 billion of offsets.”

Fortunately, a few members of Congress understand the problem with the deal.

“More spending. More debt. More failure of representation. This ‘deal’ reflects our broken process. A few ‘leaders’ dictate terms to everyone else. They don’t care how bad the ‘deal’ is for America, as long as they maintain power. They then bribe and punish others to get it done,” said Rep. Justin Amash, I-Michigan, via Twitter.

Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, meanwhile, rightly saw through the president's use of the military as cover for an abysmal deal, saying via Twitter: "The GOP is now, in the name of 'defense spending,' mortgaging our future national & economic security. But worse, unlimited bipartisan government spending risks losing our character & sense of self-reliance as a nation."

Unfortunately, though, not enough members of Congress seem to understand or care about continuing to add to the national debt.

Members of both parties have plenty of incentive to keep the perpetual spending going. They can keep offering handouts to their select special interest groups and constituents, but they'll probably be long gone by the time things get real challenging.

We once again encourage Congress and the president to show some restraint, for a change. This deal should be rejected and Congress should spend within its means.