

Medicare -- biggest gov't money pit

Chris Woodward - OneNewsNow - 4/9/2011 3:40:00 AM



Entitlement programs -- people hear about them a lot when it comes to news reports and politicians talking about federal spending. But just how much do they figure into the equation?



Tanner

Michael Tanner of the [Cato Institute](#) explains in a recent podcast: "The largest portion, almost half of federal spending, is made up of entitlement programs."

What separates entitlement spending from discretionary spending, he says, is an annual appropriation line item in the budget that covers those items. As Tanner puts it, entitlement programs are "on auto-pilot" and "increase every year regardless of what Congress does."

"The biggest one is Medicare," he says. "According to the government itself, we're looking at about \$90 trillion in unfunded liability in this program going forward."

When that is added to the current federal deficit and debt, Tanner says that results in a total debt of \$119.5 trillion -- nine times the United States' Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

While some lawmakers are quick to dismiss the issue by saying the real problems are decades away and a lot can happen, Tanner says the problem is already evident. "Both Social Security and Medicare are actually running deficits today. This year, Social Security will run about a \$57 billion deficit," says the Cato Institute spokesman.

As for the idea that raising taxes will solve the problem, Tanner too dismisses that mindset. He explains that if the government were to confiscate every penny owned by every millionaire in America, it "wouldn't make a dent" in the amount of debt the country faces.

"The solution has to be to reduce spending," he says.



Other Stories in Politics and Government

['Identity politics' interfering in black community](#)

[Nashville law protects contractors' 'gay' workers](#)

[Obamanomics = 'environment of fear'](#)

[Detrimental measure makes headway](#)

[Obama's 'pizzazz' is kaput](#)

[Congressman: Death tax is wrong tax](#)

[Boehner -- pro-lifers' staunch ally](#)

[Political 'power grab' in Calif. GOP group](#)

[Shift to Gitmo part of Obama's re-election scheme](#)

[Email This Story](#)

[Print This Story](#)

ONENWSNOW VIDEO



[Another Japan aftershock](#)



[BP compensation dollars abused?](#)



[Texas wildfires](#)

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

Mission Driven. Practice Oriented.

Click here or visit law.liberty.edu

AP LATEST HEADLINES

[Cleanup of tornado-swept Iowa town to take months](#)

[Japan rattled by aftershock on quake anniversary](#)

[AP Exclusive: US blocks 350 suspected terrorists](#)

[Memphis police: 3 dead in murder-suicide](#)

[White House: Obama to lay out spending plan](#)

[AP Headlines RSS](#)

SPRING SHARATHON 2011

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF MINISTRY TO THE FAMILY!

american family radio

YOUR WORLD NOW

U.S.



[Federal judge, 103, still hearing cases in Kansas](#)

[Exonerated ex-CIA agent dreams of Cuban beaches](#)

[Debate stirs over 1st major US tar sands mine](#)

World



[Filipino troops defuse 3rd bomb after hostel blast](#)

[Filipino TV show goes off air over crying child](#)

[Federal shutdown avoided, 2012 budget fight looms](#)

[Europeans seek new lives in old colonies](#)

[End to Japan nuke crisis is years, a fortune away](#)

Business



[Earnings schedule for week of 04/11/2011](#)

[Dollar and precious metals at a glance\(474\)](#)

[Del. bank settles lawsuit against former execs](#)

[Commodity prices rise with global issues in flux](#)

Politics



[Wisconsin Supreme Court too close to call](#)

[Wis. Supreme Court race a dead heat](#)

[Pawlenty to run 2012 campaign from Minn. high-rise](#)

[Kaine announces Senate campaign in online video](#)

[Union rights fight looms in Wis. high court race](#)

Missions



[Deadly drug cartels won't stop ministry](#)

[Japan's children looking for hope](#)

[Mother/Daughter trip to Guatemala a time for bonding and example setting](#)

[Japan's confidence wobbles with aftershocks](#)

[Spring Break projects bring in over 1,500 students\(3\)](#)

Sports



[Favorite Jaycito uncertain for Santa Anita Derby](#)

[Favorite Jaycito out of Santa Anita Derby](#)

[FSU's Makusha back in form, wins long jump](#)

All Original Content Copyright 2006-2008 American Family News Network - All Rights Reserved.

[Policies](#) | [Get the ONN RSS Feed](#) | [Contact Us](#)

"OneNewsNow", "OneNewsNow.com", and the "OneNewsNow World" logo, are Trademarks of the American Family News Network - All Rights Reserved

4/11/2011 8:51:48 AM