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National Journal's House Race Hotline

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## Cutting Along the Dotted Line

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"Wherever she goes," Sarasota Springs Mayor **Mia Love** (R) "says her top priority as a member of Congress would be balancing the federal budget. Everything else is 'remodeling the kitchen when the house is on fire.'"

"To do that, she has offered a detailed blueprint of deep cuts to federal programs totaling more than" \$750B. "It would mean whacking more than" \$2B of federal spending in UT, "slashing food assistance for the poor, eliminating school lunch subsidies and wiping out special-education aid. She would end subsidized college loans like those she used herself when she earned her degree, and eliminate funds like those that were spent" in Sarasota Springs, "aimed at preventing homelessness."

"Love says her list -- which was sent" to GOP voters before the state convo -- "was a starting point." Love: "You almost look at this (deficit) and ask yourself, 'How do you start?' We were just looking at it holistically."

Love's plan "would trim" \$758.6B "from the federal budget, although that includes" \$212B "in long-term savings from capping Medicaid growth" and \$87B from "repealing the Affordable Care Act. ... It doesn't touch" DoD, "an area Love said she needs to understand better before recommending cuts."

Rep. **Jim Matheson** (D) "hasn't seen Love's plan, but doesn't think voters will like her budget-slashing proposals." Matheson: "The notion of cutting back on loans and grants for kids to go to college is exactly the wrong thing to do. That's our investment in the future. I think most people in Utah just don't buy into cutting those things. I think it's an example that on many issues she's way out there in regard to where the average Utahn is. That's not the way we're going to balance the budget."

"Matheson has not offered the same kind of specifics, but has endorsed" the Simpson-Bowles plan.

"Love said she's not surprised her opponent is portraying her as a radical, but insisted she is serious about getting the deficit under control. ... Her blueprint draws heavily on the work of the **Cato Institute**."

"One of Love's biggest cost savings comes from cutting food subsidies in the state by half. That includes chopping" more than \$200M from UT's food stamp payments. "Love would also trim the program that provides food assistance to pregnant mothers and children in poverty. She said U.S. poverty programs aren't working and are miring people in a cycle of dependence." Love: "I believe the best way to help the poor and the hungry is to help them get work, rather than just keep them dependent on government. We want to help them achieve their full potential."

"In addition, Love's proposal would eliminate the federal school lunch program, a role that Cato said should be handled by local governments. ... Love's list also takes aim at eliminating higher-education subsidies, including subsidized college

loans and grants. ... Love's proposed cuts would also sap more than" \$100M in federal funds to public education in UT. "In one of the biggest cuts proposed, Love would wipe out" \$60B in national grants by HUD.

"None of it's easy, Love acknowledges, but she says it's the nasty-tasting medicine the country needs to recover" (**Gehrke, Salt Lake Tribune**, 7/4).

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