February 3, 2021

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to oppose S. Con. Res. 5, establishing the congressional budget for fiscal year (FY) 2021, and setting forth budgetary levels for FYs 2022 through 2030.

This is not a traditional budget resolution. Indeed, the budget and appropriations process for FY 2021 has been concluded in a bipartisan manner. The resolution’s sole purpose is to trigger the reconciliation process to rush through President Biden’s wasteful and misguided $1.9 trillion spending plan on a partisan basis, making it the first such response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Passage of this unnecessarily exorbitant legislation would increase the total spent on pandemic “relief” to more than $5.7 trillion, even though more than $1 trillion of the prior appropriated funds remains unspent. For example, more than $350 billion for state and local governments is included in the $1.9 trillion plan, but the Treasury Department’s most recent interim report on Coronavirus Relief Fund spending showed that only three states have spent more than 50 percent, 23 states have used less than 10 percent, and 11 of those have used less than 5 percent. Vaccination numbers are rising rapidly, and the Biden administration has promised a significant increase in availability in the next 100 days. COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations decreased for the second week in a row as of January 28, by 17 percent and 10 percent, respectively. More vaccines and lower cases and hospitalizations will be a natural and far less expensive stimulus to the economy. The Congressional Budget Office now estimates that economic growth will return to pre-pandemic levels by the middle of 2021 with GDP increasing by 3.7 percent by the end of the year, and the labor force will completely recover by the middle of 2022 without any of the $1.9 trillion.

Starting the 117th Congress with the passage of S. Con. Res. 5 is not a path to unity; it is a road to fiscal ruin for taxpayers. It is not about targeting money to those most in need; it just spends money.

Again, I urge you to be fiscally responsible and oppose S. Con. Res. 5. All votes on this resolution will be among those considered for CCAGW’s 2021 Congressional Ratings.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact CCAGW Federal Government Affairs Associate Cody Leach at cleach@cagw.org.

Sincerely,

Tom Schatz
President, CCAGW