STEPHEN A. WOMACK
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0403

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES– CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

September 1, 2026

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
House Committee on Rules
H-312, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Ranking Member
House Committee on Rules
H-152, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member McGovern, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of my proposals and for allowing an opportunity for Members to present our ideas on improving the operation of this body. As former Chairman of the House Budget Committee and the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform, as well as a current member of the Bipartisan Fiscal Forum, I continue to explore bipartisan solutions to address our fiscal state and welcome your input. We must come together as a Congress to find solutions for the pressing matters before us.

Regardless of which party controls the House of Representatives, we are far too often asked to vote on legislation without being given the time to understand the fiscal ramifications. Long-past are the days when this body could haphazardly vote on legislation without worrying about the long-term fiscal impact of doing so. Going forward, the House must take into consideration the fiscal state of our nation when evaluating each and every piece of legislation that comes before us.

It is a disservice to our constituents and counterintuitive to the intent of this body when we are expected to vote on something without understanding its broader fiscal impacts, or the more personal impacts felt across our districts. In response, I propose the creation of a "No Score, No Vote" point of order in the rules of the House of Representatives for the 120th Congress.

To do this, we must create a point of order that may be raised to prohibit the House of Representatives from beginning debate, or calling for a vote on legislation unless said legislation has received a comprehensive estimate from either the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) or the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT). The comprehensive estimate must clearly include the legislation's fiscal impact and clearly document the estimated effects on the outlays, revenues, and annual deficit of the federal government over a 5-year or 10-year budget window.

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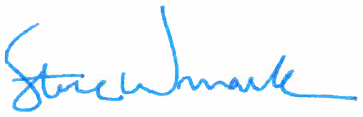
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One frustration shared by all Members of the House is the lack of time we are given to evaluate pieces of legislation before it is considered on the floor. To address this, it shall not be in order to consider a covered measure until a comprehensive estimate performed by CBO or JCT that satisfies these conditions has been available to Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner for at least 24 hours.

To ensure that we do not hamstring ourselves or prevent swift action in response to national emergencies, a provision should be included to ensure that this shall not apply to a bill or joint resolution continuing appropriations for a fiscal year, legislation reported by the Committee on Appropriations providing new budget authority for a fiscal year, or containing an emergency designation under section 251(b)(2) or section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my proposals.

Sincerely,



Steve Womack
Member of Congress

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As you are all aware, our nation recently surpassed $40 trillion in national debt. This is uncharted territory for us as lawmakers, and if we do not act expeditiously as a Congress, we will propel our nation into a fiscal crisis with catastrophic outcomes for our constituents.

The House of Representatives does not have the luxury of routinely enacting legislation that increases mandatory spending at a time when such spending currently accounts for a majority of annual outlays. In response, I propose guardrails to enforce already-existing mandatory spending controls.

Congress reinstituted a "Cut-As-You-Go" rule within the rules package adopted for the 118th Congress and retained it for the 119th Congress, intending to restore fiscal responsibility and prevent future Congresses from having to address the catastrophic implications stemming from fiscal irresponsibility. Unfortunately, not long after adoption, the rule was waived and has continued to be waived with regularity.

I propose a new clause to be inserted into the rules of the House for the 120th Congress that requires no less than 9/13 of the Rules Committees' members, including one member of the minority party in the House of Representatives, voting in the affirmative to report out a resolution, rule, or order of business that supersedes, suspends, or otherwise bypasses House Rule XXI, clause 10, the Cut-As-You-Go point of order. For reference, Rule XXI, Clause 10 states:

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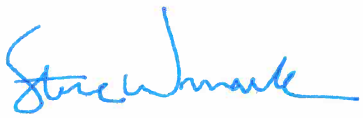
"Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) it shall not be in order to consider a bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or a conference report thereon if the provisions of such measure have the net effect of increasing mandatory spending for the period of either – (a) the current year, the budget year, and the four fiscal years that following budget year; or (b) the current year, the budget year, and the nine fiscal years following that budget year."

The rules should clearly state that it shall not be in order to consider in the House a resolution, rule, or order of business reported by the Committee on Rules in violation of this paragraph unless the aforementioned threshold is met.

By instituting this rule, the House will exercise restraint and consider the implications of new mandatory spending within our current fiscal climate. The purpose is not to prohibit new mandatory spending, but to require the House to carefully weigh the economic, social, and moral implications of doing so.

Considering the national debt is over $40 trillion, Congress must explore solutions to rein in our mandatory spending before it is too late. Thank you for your time and consideration of my proposals.

Sincerely,



Steve Womack
Member of Congress