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899-1111

February 2, 2012

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to oppose H.R. 3582, the Pro-Growth Budgeting Act, and H.R. 3578, the Baseline Reform Act. These bills will not improve current budget challenges. In fact, they would undermine Congress' attempts to craft budgets that accurately reflect the economy and national needs.

H.R. 3582 incorporates accounting gimmicks, such as dynamic scoring, that favor tax cuts and inaccurately reflect cost estimates for major legislation. H.R. 3578 would require the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to assume that future annual appropriations will remain frozen indefinitely with no adjustment for inflation as they prepare budget baselines that project future funding. This revision would inaccurately lower projections of deficits and debt, suggest that new funding proposals or tax cuts are more affordable than they actually are, and present an inaccurate projection of national funding needs.

Changing Congress' budget-making procedures will not improve or correct the underlying problem of insufficient revenues. Further, inadequate revenues burden working and middle-class families without requiring equal sacrifice from corporations and the wealthy. AFSCME urges Congress to reject H.R. 3582 and H.R. 3578. Congress should instead begin to focus on the urgent need for adequate revenue rather than waste time on budget procedure bills.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Loveless
Director of Legislation

CML:ejm

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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