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## **CPPP Urges Texas Congressional Delegation to Vote Against Extreme Balanced Budget Amendment Coming to the Floor Next Week**

(AUSTIN, Texas) — Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPPP) Executive Director F. Scott McCown made the following comments today about a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

“U.S. House Leaders plan to hold a vote late next week on [H.J. Res. 2](#) an extreme version of a balanced budget amendment that would damage the economy, create serious problems for Social Security, and force huge cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, and programs that provide basic assistance to low-income Texans.

“The proposed constitutional amendment would require achieving balance in a short time, perhaps as early as 2018. We can determine the sorts of cuts balancing the federal budget this quickly would require by looking at the proposed Republican Study Committee (RSC) budget and the House-passed Ryan budget. The RSC budget claims to balance by 2020. To balance this quickly, the RSC budget makes Medicare into a voucher and raises the program’s eligibility age to 67, makes even deeper cuts to Medicare than the Ryan budget, raises the Social Security retirement age to 70, cuts core programs for the poor (including Medicaid) *in half* over the coming decade, and, by 2021, cuts domestic discretionary spending (everything from veterans’ medical care to border security to medical research to education) by about *70 percent*. The Ryan budget itself claims to balance in the 2030s, at least a decade beyond the RSC budget, but even this longer timeframe requires very deep cuts. As the RSC budget and the Ryan budget show, balancing by 2018 would require deep and damaging cuts to critical federal programs.

“Generally Texans like to pay as we go. But Texans understand why it makes sense for families to borrow for cars, houses, and education. And Texans understand that it can make sense for governments to borrow too. For example, Texans want and need federal assistance to deal with economic recessions and natural disasters, which would be severely restricted or even prohibited by this extreme proposed balanced budget amendment.

“The medicine our nation must take to get over our budget woes should be safe and effective, not worse than the disease itself. Texans understand that it is going to take time to balance our budget. We urge Texas House members to vote no on this or any other extreme balanced budget amendment and instead demand a credible deficit reduction plan that takes a balanced approach to putting our nation back on a responsible fiscal path.”

For more information on a balanced budget amendment, see:

CBPP piece on Macroeconomic Advisers economic analysis of a constitutional BBA  
<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3611>

Letter from Economists in Opposition to a Balanced Budget Amendment  
<http://www.cbpp.org/files/7-19-11bud-pr-sig.pdf>

State and Local Organizations Opposing a Balanced Budget Amendment  
<http://www.cbpp.org/files/StateOrganizationsBBA.pdf>

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## About CPPP

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit policy institute committed to improving public policies to better the economic and social conditions of low- and moderate-income Texans. You can learn more about CPPP at [www.cppp.org](http://www.cppp.org).

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