

## RPC 2018-011

### The Democratic Party Must Rescind Its Commitment to Pay-Go

WHEREAS Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution states: *“No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.”*;

WHEREAS Pay-go is a budget rule requiring that new legislation affecting revenues and spending on entitlement programs, taken as a whole, does not increase projected budget deficits<sup>[1]</sup>;

WHEREAS 50% of all Americans live in or near poverty<sup>[2]</sup>;

WHEREAS House Republicans on June 19th quietly unveiled their 2019 budget proposal that calls for \$537 billion in cuts to Medicare, \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, and \$4 billion in cuts to Social Security, and other cuts over the next decade in an effort to pay for their deficit-exploding tax cuts for the wealthy<sup>[3]</sup>;

WHEREAS 83% of the recent republican \$1.5 trillion tax cuts will go to the top 1%<sup>[4]</sup>;

WHEREAS Government sources indicate \$21 trillion in unsupported adjustments have been reported for the Department of Defense and the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the years 1998-2015<sup>[5]</sup>;

WHEREAS 89% of democrats voted to pass the \$696.5 billion defense bill<sup>[6]</sup>;

WHEREAS An additional \$61 billion was allocated in 2018 to the Trump administration for defense, boosting its overall budget to \$700 billion, a 40% increase since the height of the Iraq war, and the US spends more than the next 9 countries on defense, and most of those countries are our allies<sup>[7]</sup>;

WHEREAS The Pentagon is slated to receive more than \$6 trillion over the next decade<sup>[8]</sup>;

WHEREAS The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicts the annual deficit will top \$1 trillion by 2020<sup>[9]</sup>;

WHEREAS Democratic Party leadership has publicly committed to “pay-go” (pay as you go) should democrats win the House in the 2018 midterms, and that “the policy would be a 2019 priority”<sup>[10]</sup>;

WHEREAS Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), who heads the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC), said the Democrats would be foolish to adopt the fiscal restraints, especially in light of the Republicans’ newly adopted tax-reform law, which is estimated to add almost \$2 trillion to the debt over the next decade<sup>[11]</sup>; and

WHEREAS Pay-go effectively means that the government cannot increase spending unless there is an increase in revenue;

THEREFORE the Washington County Democratic Central Committee (WCDCC) of Oregon resolves as follows:

1. We call upon Democratic Leadership to renounce their pay-go commitment and agree to increase spending on policies like Social Security, Medicare for All, a living wage, tuition-free college, elimination of student debt, a jobs program and other programs that benefit the American people and help our economy;
2. We direct that copies of this resolution be sent to all Oregon representatives and senators.
3. We call on the Democratic Party of Oregon to publicly denounce the House’s pay-go plan;
4. We call on the Democratic Party of Oregon to officially thank Senators Merkley and Wyden for NOT being part of the 89% of senators who voted for the Defense bill; and

5. We direct that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all Oregon county Central Committees and to the SCC, and recommend adoption.

<sup>[1]</sup> [Tax Policy Center: What Is Pay-Go?](#)

<sup>[2]</sup> [Yes, Half of Americans Are In or Near Poverty: Here's More Evidence](#)

<sup>[3]</sup> [Morally Bankrupt: After Tax Cuts for Richest House GOP Unveils \\$5.4 Trillion Attack on Nation's Safety Net](#)

<sup>[4]</sup> [The Republican Tax Bill Got Worse: Now the Top 1% Gets 83% of the Gains](#)

<sup>[5]</sup> [Has Our Government Spent \\$21 Trillion of Our Money Without Telling Us?](#)

<sup>[6]</sup> [89% of Senate Democrats Help Pass the \\$696.5 Defense Bill](#)

<sup>[7]</sup> [How the Pentagon Plans to Spend That Extra \\$61 Billion](#)

<sup>[8]</sup> [Trump's 'infrastructure' plan](#)

<sup>[9]</sup> [U.S. Deficit to Surpass \\$1 Trillion Two Years Ahead of Estimates, CBO Says](#)

<sup>[10]</sup> [Dem Leaders Embrace Pay-Go](#)

<sup>[11]</sup> [Pelosi's Pay-Go Rule Is Entirely Counter-Productive to Progressive Policy Goals](#)

*Adopted by WCDCC – August 22, 2018*