

## **U.S. Representative Ed Case**

### **Fiscal Accountability and National Debt Accomplishments (2019-2026)**

Our federal finances are on a dangerously unsustainable path. Our national debt (the total amount owed by our federal government to our creditors) is over \$39 trillion (as of June 2026), an unprecedented amount both overall and by various other measures. Specifically, our debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio, which measures total debt against our overall economy, is currently at 101%, and on current trends is projected to rise to 120% by 2036. By comparison, the previous high in our history was a debt-to-GDP ratio of 106% in the closing years of World War II, when we had to incur massive amounts of debt from the war effort.

The consequences of this fiscal irresponsibility are widespread, including an increasing risk to our basic fiscal stability, significantly higher interest rates, downgraded ratings of our national bonds (causing increased borrowing costs, and a direct threat to our indispensable role as the world's reserve currency).

As just one consequence, the annual interest on our debt alone is now the fastest-growing part of our federal budget. And since Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, we've spent more money on interest payments on the debt than defense, the second largest portion of our federal budget.

Rep. Case, a former member of the House Budget Committee (responsible for our annual federal budget) and current member of the House Appropriations Committee (responsible for our annual federal spending), has focused on our unsustainable national budget dating back to his earliest service in Congress in 2002. He believes that denial is dangerous, tough realities are unavoidable, and real action is required. He focuses on these issues with like-minded colleagues on both sides of the aisle, including through his Problem Solvers Caucus (<https://problemsolverscaucus.house.gov/>), where he is Co-Chair of its Budget, Tax, Appropriations, Debt and Deficit Group (see the Problem Solvers' Bipartisan Fiscal Stability Framework, which his group developed at <https://tinyurl.com/42nczzzx>), and his Bipartisan Fiscal Framework Group.

For further information on Rep. Case's overall efforts, please go to <https://case.house.gov/issues/issue/?IssueID=14933>.

Below are some highlights:

#### **Key Bill Introduced by Rep. Case**

Every Congress since 2019, Rep. Case and his colleague, Rep. Steve Womack (R-Arkansas), have co-led the Sustainable Budget Act (currently [H.R. 222](#)), a bill (proposed legislation) aiming to create an 18-member bipartisan commission with the overall goal to redirect, recenter and refocus federal attention on addressing the national debt and improving fiscal accountability.

## Key Cosponsorships

Rep. Case has consistently cosponsored legislation with colleagues across multiple Congresses to advance his long-standing priorities to address our national debt, improve our fiscal outlook and increase financial accountability and literacy.

His bills range from ensuring financial literacy for America's youth to demanding greater reporting transparency on our national budget from top federal agencies. His efforts further address past gridlock and transparency issues with the President's annual budget request and how it impacts Congress' annual appropriations cycle.

### 119th Congress (2025-present)

- [H.R. 7808](#), the Debt-to-GDP Act, which would require the President's annual budget and Congressional budget resolutions to include (1) the ratio of the public debt to the estimated gross domestic product (GDP), and (2) the ratio of the surplus or deficit to the estimated GDP.
- [H.R. 6895](#), the Debt Solution and Accountability Act, which would require the Department of the Treasury to submit a comprehensive fiscal report to Congress.
- [H.R. 7183](#), the Youth Financial Learning Act, which would improve the financial literacy of secondary school students.
- [H.Res. 981](#), expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that (1) Congress should adopt a fiscal target to reduce the federal budget deficit to 3% of gross domestic product or less as soon as possible but no later than the end of FY 2030; and (2) after the target is achieved, Congress should continue to pursue further deficit reduction with the goal of achieving a balanced federal budget.
- [H.R. 5220](#), the Congressional Power of the Purse Act, which would strengthen and enhance the Congressional power of the purse.
- [H.R. 4642](#), the Fiscal Contingency Act, which would require the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, to examine the ability of the federal government to respond to potential fiscal shocks.
- [H.R. 4230](#), the Appropriations Compliance and Training Act, which would require certain executive branch employees to complete annual training on appropriations law.
- [H.R. 3912](#), the Stop the Baseline Bloat Act, which would change the assumptions that the Congressional Budget Office uses to calculate the baseline for discretionary spending. (A baseline is a projection of federal spending and receipts during a fiscal year under current law.)
- [H.R. 3289](#), the Fiscal Commission Act, which would establish a commission on fiscal responsibility and reform.
- [H.R. 991](#), the Cost Estimates Improvement Act, which would require cost estimates prepared by the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Committee on Taxation to include the costs of servicing the public debt.
- [H.R. 829](#), the Fighting Budget Waste Act, which would require the President and the Office of Management and Budget to consider the Government Accountability Office's annual report on ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the federal government when preparing the President's annual budget.

- [H.R. 486](#), the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act, which would require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to award competitive grants to eligible institutions for the establishment of financial literacy education programs for young people and families.
- [H.R. 428](#), the Bonuses for Cost-Cutters Act, which would expand the awards program for cost-saving identifications by federal employees of fraud, waste or mismanagement to include identifications of certain operational expenses that are wasteful
- [H.Res. 292](#), supporting the goals and ideals of “Financial Literacy Month.”

#### 118th Congress (2023-2024)

- [H.R. 8341](#), the Cost Estimates Improvement Act. See above in 119th Congress bill section for description.
- [H.R. 8068](#), the Stop the Baseline Bloat Act. See above in 119th Congress bill section for description.
- [H.R. 6889](#), the True Cost Act, which would require the President's annual budget submission to Congress to include estimates of the cost per individual taxpayer for (1) the public debt, and (2) any projected budget deficit for a fiscal year.
- [H.R. 6327](#), the Youth Financial Learning Act. See above in 119th Congress bill section for description.
- [H.R. 5779](#), the Fiscal Commission Act, which would establish a commission on fiscal responsibility and reform.
- [H.R. 4583](#), the Social Security 2100 Act, which would modify the Social Security system, particularly with respect to benefit calculations, fund administration, and beneficiary resources.
- [H.R. 2821](#), the Young Americans Financial Literacy Act. See above in 119th Congress bill section for description.
- [H.R. 1194](#), the Fighting Presidential Budget Waste Act. See above in 119th Congress bill section for description.
- [H.R. 361](#), the Stop Inflationary Spending Act, which would require the Congressional Budget Office to provide inflation projections for bills that Congress considers using the budget reconciliation process.
- [H.Con.Res. 46](#), the Fiscal State of the Nation Resolution, which would require the congressional budget committees to conduct an annual joint hearing to receive a presentation from the Comptroller General regarding (1) the Government Accountability Office's audit of the financial statement of the executive branch, and (2) the financial position and condition of the federal government.

#### 117th Congress (2021-2022)

- [H.R. 6629](#), the Informed Lawmaking to Combat Inflation Act, which would require the Congressional Budget Office to provide inflation estimates for certain legislation that is projected to cause an annual gross budgetary effect of at least 0.25% of the projected gross domestic product of the United States.
- [H.R. 5723](#), the Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act. See above in 118th Congress bill section for description.
- [H.R. 4742](#), the Duplication Scoring Act, which would require the Government Accountability Office to analyze legislation reported by a Congressional committee and

report on whether the legislation would create a risk of a new duplicative or overlapping program, office, or initiative in an area previously identified as an area of duplication, overlap or fragmentation.

- [H.R. 3785](#), the Fair-Value Accounting and Budget Act, which would require the Congressional Budget Office to provide certain fair-value estimates of federal loan and loan guarantee programs.
- [H.R. 1547](#), the Youth Financial Learning Act. See above in 118th Congress bill section for description.
- [H.Con.Res. 44](#), the Fiscal State of the Nation Resolution. See above in 118th Congress bill section for description.
- [H.Res. 285](#), supporting the goals and ideals of “Financial Literacy Month.”

#### 116th Congress (2019-2020)

- [H.R. 6628](#), the Congressional Power of the Purse Act. See above in 119th Congress bill version for description.
- [H.R. 860](#), the Social Security 2100 Act. See above in 118th Congress bill version for description.
- [H.R. 129](#), the No Budget, No Pay Act, which would prohibit Members of Congress from being paid in a fiscal year until both chambers approve the budget resolution and pass all regular appropriations bills for that fiscal year.
- [H.J.Res. 55](#), which proposed Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It would have prohibited total outlays for a fiscal year from exceeding total receipts for that fiscal year unless Congress authorizes the excess by a three-fifths roll call vote of each chamber.
- [H.Con.Res. 68](#), the Fiscal State of the Nation Resolution. See above in 118th Congress bill version for description.

### Key Votes

#### 119th Congress

- Voted NO on H.R. 1, the 2025 budget reconciliation bill that will increase the debt by \$3.4 trillion.

#### 118th Congress

- Voted YES on [H.R. 9716](#), the Increasing Baseline Updates Act.
- Voted YES on [H.R. 3746](#), the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

#### 117th Congress

- Voted YES on [H.R. 22](#), the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act.

#### 116th Congress

- Voted YES on [H.R. 4894](#), the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act.
- Voted YES on [H.R. 150](#), the GREAT Act, which improved transparency over federal grants. Now Public Law No. 116-103.

## **Funding the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office**

The two main federal agencies with direct impact and oversight on our nation's fiscal outlook are the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Both offices are institutions of Congress, not the executive branch/administration, and are funded annually through the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.

CBO was established in 1974 by the Congressional Budget Act. It provides objective, nonpartisan information to support the Congressional budget process to better inform Congress in making budget and economic policy. It is Congress's alternative resource to the executive branch's Office of Management and Budget and other executive branch agencies which research, report and publish similar information.

CBO offers a variety of reports and publications that are cited by many and are invaluable resources for policymakers. Three examples include the *Budget and Economic Outlook*, *Monthly Budget Review* and *Options for Reducing the Deficit*. Collectively, CBO regularly maintains and updates this information bank of fiscal data, generated and analyzed by the nations' top economists. Its work is critical to address our fiscal health, and Congress is directly responsible for guiding the CBO and ensuring that its work is being leveraged to its fullest potential.

GAO was founded in 1921 after Congress identified the need to control the growing government expenditures and debt after World War I. Since then, GAO has grown parallel to the federal government's responsibilities and programs, with its main responsibility to be Congress's watchdog. It ensures that government spending is used efficiently, investigates potential waste or mismanagement, and provides nonpartisan recommendations to improve accountability and effectiveness.

Through Rep. Case's membership on the House Appropriations Committee, he has secured increased federal funding for both offices each year to ensure they have the resources, workforce and capacity to fulfill their mission and work.

### *CBO Funding Levels*

- FY 2027 (as of May 2026): \$76 million
- FY 2026: \$75 million
- FY 2025: \$70 million
- FY 2024: \$70 million
- FY 2023: \$63 million
- FY 2022: \$61 million
- FY 2021: \$57 million
- FY 2020: \$55 million
- FY 2019: \$51 million

### *GAO Funding Levels*

- FY 2027 (as of May 2026): \$612 million

- FY 2026: \$812 million
- FY 2025: \$812 million
- FY 2024: \$812 million
- FY 2023: \$790 million
- FY 2022: \$719 million
- FY 2021: \$661 million
- FY 2020: \$630 million
- FY 2019: \$589 million

Recently, Rep. Case stood in support of his colleague, Rep. Adriano Espaillat of New York, in an effort to provide an additional \$248 million to GAO. They acted in response to a partisan budget proposal that would cut GAO's budget by 25% in FY 2026, which would result in the layoff of over one thousand employees. (See Rep. Case's comment at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1lnIXTznY4>).

Rep. Case voted against the FY 2027 budget proposal that would weaken GAO by prohibiting it from bringing civil action against other federal agencies and individuals without Congressional approval, subjecting these actions to potential partisan votes. Currently, the GAO has nearly 40 open investigations into whether the executive branch is illegally withholding appropriated money.

### **Key Joint Letters**

Rep. Case collaborates with his like-minded colleagues on joint letters, where possible, to ensure regular appropriations cycles and responsible mandatory spending on our federal health programs. As some examples:

#### 119th Congress

- 3/12/25: Letter to the GAO on developing a database for all funds from the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to systematically track delays in disbursing appropriated funds.
- 7/23/2025: An amicus brief in *New York v. Trump*, filed in opposition to the Trump administration's unconstitutional freeze of Congressionally appropriated federal funds.

#### 117th Congress

- 5/20/2021: Letter to the House and Senate Budget Committees Leadership requesting the Committees to direct CBO Office to begin including debt servicing costs in all legislative cost estimates produced.
- 6/11/2021: Letter to House Leadership requesting the House pass a budget resolution that stabilizes the national debt.

## **Statements (Floor and Committee)**

Rep. Case has also provided various speeches and statements before the full House and committee hearings to address the importance of fiscal accountability and our national budget. Some examples are:

### 119th Congress

- Introduction of the Sustainable Budget Act, [March 31, 2025](#), <https://tinyurl.com/v7xtb9v2>.

### 118th Congress

- “Unsustainable, Crippling Federal Deficit and Debt,” [September 24, 2024](#), <https://tinyurl.com/mr3y4885>.
- Introduction of the Sustainable Budget Act, [April 10, 2023](#), <https://tinyurl.com/t5ss33c3>.
- Testimony to the House Budget Committee on a Path to a Sustainable Federal Budget, December 1, 2023, <https://tinyurl.com/3fcvwmp8>.

### 117th Congress

- Testimony to the House Budget Committee on Member Day, May 17, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/3h2vvt3y>.

### 116th Congress

- Speech on Fiscal Responsibility, [July 18, 2019](#), <https://tinyurl.com/bde5krar>.
- “Our Federal Fiscal House is Out of Order,” [November 21, 2019](#), <https://tinyurl.com/5f7uzfs9>.

## **Other Key Award**

*Fiscal Heroes Award from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.* In May 2024, Rep. Case was named and honored as a “Fiscal Hero,” a designation awarded each Congress to recognize policymakers working to improve the nation’s fiscal situation and fix the budget process.

## **Fiscal/National Debt Working Groups**

Rep. Case holds leadership positions and participates in three bipartisan, fiscally focused working groups both on and off the Hill.

### *The Problem Solver Caucus (PSC)*

The PSC is a group of Members of Congress — split between Republicans and Democrats — committed to advancing common-sense solutions to key issues facing our nation. Our Members sit down together every week to debate, exchange ideas and find common ground.

Rep. Case is an active Member and leader in the PSC. He co-leads the PSC Budget, Tax, Appropriations, Debt and Deficit Working Group. In January 2026, Rep. Case’s PSC working group developed and endorsed its bipartisan fiscal stability framework to address the nation’s growing national debt (See <https://tinyurl.com/46evb4hs>).

#### *The Bipartisan Fiscal Forum (BFF)*

The BFF is a group of like-minded congressmembers dedicated to sounding the alarm about our nation’s unsustainable debt trajectory and working together to get control of our fiscal future. The group’s mission is to elevate the debt issue with their colleagues and the public while providing members of Congress with opportunities to improve the fiscal policy debate in Congress. The group began informally in 2020 and since then has engaged in bipartisan collaboration to put forward ideas that address our growing debt and exploding interest costs. In total, more than 90 current members of Congress have participated in BFF activities.

Rep. Case sits on the steering committee for the BFFs, which works closely with the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB), a non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to educating the public on issues with significant fiscal policy impact. Earlier this year, the CRFB published a 3% deficit-to-GDP target which has gained bipartisan momentum and support in Congress. For more details, see <https://tinyurl.com/y5jtv36h>.

On March 26, 2026, CRFB President Maya MacGuineas testified before the House Budget Committee on the 3% target in a hearing titled “Best Metric to Reverse the Curse: A 3% Deficit-to-GDP Path to Fiscal Sustainability.” For more details, see <https://budget.house.gov/hearing/the-best-metric-to-reverse-the-curse-a-3-deficit-to-gdp-path-to-fiscal-sustainability>.

#### *No Labels – Fiscal Working Group*

Rep. Case frequently works with No Labels, a nonprofit committed to support bipartisanship and “common sense” solutions and policies that aren’t necessarily bogged down with partisanship. They work to facilitate progress in multiple sectors through a shared set of moderate-leaning core values, one of which states, “We believe it is immoral and irresponsible for our government to continue spending more than it takes in and piling so much debt on the next generation.”

No Labels is currently developing the “Break Glass” fiscal emergency playbook. It is a policy book aimed to get inform and alert the American public to the nation’s fiscal health and debt, and choices for American government leaders to address and anticipate the impending debt crisis. For more details, see <https://nolabels.org/the-latest/introducing-no-labels-break-glass-fiscal-emergency-playbook/>.