



Advocacy Update

Sent July 20, 2011

Inform Your Legislators That You Oppose the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011

Yesterday, July 19, the U.S. House of Representatives debated and passed the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011 (H.R. 2560). WRJ, the Union for Reform Judaism, and almost two-hundred and fifty other organizations and associations oppose this legislation because it would damage the economy by increasing joblessness and poverty, while constraining the ability of the federal government to create new jobs by investing in infrastructural and environmental projects.

The bill would require that the budget be balanced yearly with caps requiring harsh cuts in non-defense discretionary spending. One proposed budget in the House contains deep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, and Supplemental Security Income for the elderly poor and the disabled, as well as veterans' benefits, and raises the retirement age for Social Security to seventy.

H.R. 2560 would also require passage of a balanced budget amendment and approval by two-thirds of the House and the Senate to increase the debt limit. Moreover, this supermajority of votes would also be required to raise taxes or waive the balanced budget requirement. These provisions would make it extremely difficult to obtain the revenues needed to balance yearly budgets, requiring ever more stringent cuts to social services, health care, and education while protecting tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

Although the bill has passed in the House, it will probably not pass in the Senate in its current form, and the president has issued a veto message. Nevertheless, it is urgent that you let your legislators know that you oppose this regressive bill and the policies on which it is based. [Go to the RAC website](#) to learn more about the bill and send e-messages to your legislators in the House and Senate.

Take action now!