

If the “Occupy” movements are to bring about real change, they must become politically active in 2012 and beyond. They need to move Congress in a more progressive direction, a direction that fits their needs.

Just like the ultra-conservative Tea Party movement pressured moderate Republicans to stiffen their backs on conservative things Republicans say they believe in, so too the Occupy movements must pressure Democrats to stiffen their backs on the liberal things that Democrats say they believe in.

Madam Speaker, we already know that my conservative colleagues in both parties believe in States’ rights and deregulation, which will allow the private economy and market forces to wreak havoc on the economy and most Americans like it did in the first decade of the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, we already know conservatives in both parties believe in trickle down economics that never trickle down but always flood up.

Madam Speaker, we already know the consequences to the economy, workers, and society of laissez faire policies, bank crises that threaten and bring about even great depressions, failed corporations, disastrous home foreclosure crises, high unemployment, and corrupt politics.

Madam Speaker, we already know what conservatives on both sides of the aisle bring us. But will progressive Democrats advocate for bringing the American people anything better?

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So I want to challenge myself and my progressive Democratic colleagues to do more. We say we care about the poor. Well, let’s give the poor some bootstraps so they can lift themselves up. We say we care about the working class. Well, let’s advocate for a solution that fits the size of the problem and create enough jobs to employ the American people who are unemployed and put all Americans to work—not by 2017, not by 2018, but by the end of the month.

Try missing a bill for 4 or 5 or 6 years. Only Washington could conclude that an unemployed or underemployed person has until 2018 to worry about bringing down unemployment numbers.

We say we want more home ownership. Well, let’s propose meaningful solutions to address the housing foreclosure crisis. We say we’re for the middle class. Let’s advocate for policies that will restore the middle class’s previous standard of living. We say we support students. Well, let’s help them reduce their college debts. We say we support small businesses. Let’s advocate for policies that will help small businesses grow and enable them to hire more workers.

We need to stand with family farmers like the Johnsons in my new congressional district and against agribusiness when they threaten to drive the Johnsons out of business.

So I say, Madam Speaker, in conclusion, let’s put America back to work. Enough of the games. Invest in America. Rebuild America. Grow the American economy, end the housing foreclosure crisis and restore the American Dream. Enable college students to go back to school. Retrain our workers. Save our children. Save our family farms. Rebuild our bridges, our ports, our sewers, and our water systems. Build high-speed rail, public transportation, ports, levees, and new airports. Invest in alternative energy sources—wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal.

We can do better. Register and vote for politicians who will better represent the real economic interests of the American people. We can act. We can change things. We can restore faith in government and the private sector for the American people.

We must invest, build, and grow to accomplish full employment.

We must do better, Madam Speaker. We must put the American people to work. And most importantly, we must honor our highest obligation as Members of this institution, and that is to restore the American people’s faith in the capacity of their government to bring about change positively in their lives.

I thank the Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today after 11:30 a.m. on account of personal reasons.

Mr. HEINRICH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2012 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2012 THROUGH FY 2021

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, to facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting an updated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2012 and for the 10-year period fiscal year 2012 through fiscal year 2021. This status report is current through October 4, 2012.

The term ‘current level’ refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President’s signature.

The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the overall limits set in H. Con. Res. 34, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution’s aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays

for years after fiscal year 2012 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for action completed by each authorizing committee with the “section 302(a)” allocations made under H. Con. Res. 34 for fiscal year 2012 and fiscal years 2012 through 2021. “Action” refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2012 with the “section 302(b)” suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is also needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for fiscal year 2013 of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 402 of H. Con. Res. 34. This list is needed to enforce section 402 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 34

[Reflecting action completed as of October 4, 2011—(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)]

	Fiscal year	
	2012 ¹	2012–2021
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	2,858,545	(1)
Outlays	2,947,916	(1)
Revenues	1,891,411	30,296,017
Current Level:		
Budget Authority	2,966,294	(1)
Outlays	3,025,428	(1)
Revenues	1,890,917	30,279,647
Current Level over (+) / under (-) Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	+107,749	(1)
Outlays	+77,512	(1)
Revenues	-494	-16,370

¹ = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

Notes for 2012: The appropriate level for FY2012 was established in H. Con. Res 34, which was subsequently deemed to be in force in the House of Representatives pursuant to H. Res. 287. The current level for FY2012 starts with the baseline estimates contained in An Analysis of the President’s Budgetary Proposals for Fiscal Year 2012, published by the Congressional Budget Office, and makes adjustments to those levels for enacted legislation.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Budget authority for FY2012 are above the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.