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# Congress of the United States

## U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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BRANDON CASEY,  
MINORITY CHIEF OF STAFF

July 26, 2017

Dear Colleague:

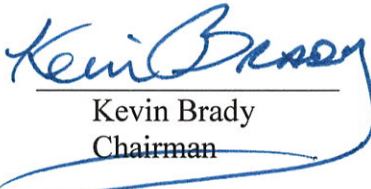
As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, we are writing to urge you to oppose any amendment to abolish or reduce funding for the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). On a bipartisan basis, we agree that CBO plays a vital role in the legislative process. We rely on CBO's analysts to provide fair, impartial, and fact-based analysis. Without that analysis, Congress could not do its work or stay within the very budget constraints we set up for ourselves in law.

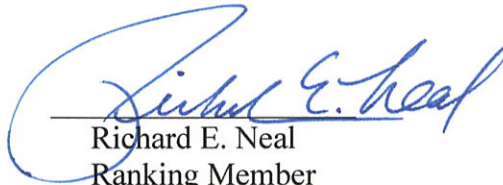
When Congress created our modern budget process in the Budget Act of 1974, it also created CBO as an integral part of that process. Without CBO, Congress would have to depend on the executive branch or on outside interests for budget and economic information. CBO, which works only for Congress, is key to maintaining our status as an equal branch of government.

While we may not agree on every policy issue, we both hold the House of Representatives in high esteem and want to keep it strong as an institution. Cutting funding for the CBO would not only harm our ability to do our work, but would impair the institution's ability to function within the rules that the Congress itself passed with respect to the budget impact of legislation.

Please join us in opposing amendments that weaken the Congressional Budget Office.

Sincerely,

  
Kevin Brady  
Chairman

  
Richard E. Neal  
Ranking Member