

We Can't Let Deficit Squawks Stifle Another Recovery

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, when the U.S. economy was in shambles and millions of Americans were in desperate need of federal assistance, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB) shortchanged our recovery by demanding austerity and generating artificial crises.

- At a time when millions of Americans were unemployed and struggling to put food on the table, the CRFB argued that “[controlling our burgeoning debt will have to be a critical piece](#)” of any recovery plan. They also demanded that new spending measures designed to aid the hardest-hit Americans, [like food stamps and unemployment insurance](#), be [offset with spending cuts](#).
- Their extreme fearmongering knew no bounds, with the CRFB generating artificial crises by arguing that significant government spending [would effectively destroy the U.S. economy](#) in the same way “[too much medicine can ultimately kill the patient](#).”
- Their harmful and extreme demands resulted in real consequences – our recovery from the Great Recession was the [slowest in U.S. history](#) and [forewent millions of jobs](#), largely because squawks got their way and [per capita spending dwarfed in comparison to other recoveries](#).

Now, the CRFB is trying to stifle our response to the pandemic-induced recession. This time, we can't let their make-believe economics stop us from aiding Americans and reaching a full recovery.

- As President Biden rolled out his recovery package, the American Rescue Plan, the CRFB picked up where they left off and warned that the legislation [was too large](#) and included “[poorly targeted rebate checks](#).”
- The CRFB misleadingly painted state and local aid as “[likely excessive](#),” despite the fact that the funding was crucial to [keeping first responders on the job](#) and [sustaining essential services through the duration of the pandemic](#).

Here's the bottom line: it would be downright dangerous to allow the CRFB's [make-believe economics](#) prevent us from reaching a full recovery as Congress debates the next tranche of federal aid through the American Jobs and Families Plans – especially when [expert](#) after [expert](#) agrees that we shouldn't prioritize deficit reduction over broad economic stimulus. They made bad calls following the Great Recession that hurt millions of Americans - we can't let that happen again.

The United States has a real opportunity – and duty – to aid Americans in need and equitably rebuild our economy. It's time we deliver.