



**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **Budget Committee Members Press For Long-Term Picture from CBO**

### *Top Economists Support Bipartisan Proposal*

**Washington, D.C.** – On the heels of efforts to seek “dynamic” scoring, House Budget Committee members Representative Reid Ribble (R-WI) and Mark Pocan (D-WI), along with their House colleagues Lynn Jenkins (R-KS), David McKinley (R-WV), and Mark Takano (D-CA), introduced a bill today to give Members of Congress a longer term picture of the costs and benefits of health care and other policy measures. Currently, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provides Congress a 5- or 10-year assessment of how policy proposals will impact the federal budget, limiting Congress’ understanding of how preventive health and other policies would play out economically over longer periods of time. The Ribble/Pocan bill would create an office within CBO that would produce longer-term evaluations to further understand how health care policies and other legislation would impact the economy.

“When you are budgeting for costs of chronic and lifelong health conditions, a 10-year window just doesn’t give us the whole picture,” said Representative Ribble. “Our legislation would help provide the necessary tools for Congress to make smarter and more long term investments in federal health and prevention programs.”

Last spring, 64 of the nation’s leading economists, including those affiliated with the Wharton School of Business, Amherst College, and Princeton and Vanderbilt Universities, issued a joint statement saying that the current short term estimates produced by CBO are “incapable of capturing both the costs and the benefits of programs extending beyond the budget window. ... [W]e support reforming the Budget Act to allow for long-term analysis of prevention policies to ensure that such policies are more accurately judged on both their costs and benefits.”

The Ribble/Pocan proposal – H.R. 282, called the *Long-Term Studies of Comprehensive Outcomes and Returns for the Economy Act (or Long-Term SCORE Act)* – would enable a Member of Congress to request a budget analysis of up to 50 years to better understand the economics of a policy proposal, and would prioritize long-term “scoring” within the CBO.

With three of every four U.S. healthcare dollars spent on caring for chronic conditions in the U.S. today, this bill would allow Members of Congress to consider both the up-front costs of

health care spending and the considerable economic benefits many measures may hold in years that are currently outside the traditional budget window.

A wide array of reports have demonstrated that preventing or reducing the prevalence of chronic illnesses such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, arthritis and others may offer significant long-term savings to taxpayers.

“Too often, Congress misses opportunities to combat chronic diseases through investments in policies that treat and reduce the prevalence of these conditions and, in doing so, save billions of taxpayer dollars,” said Stephanie Silverman, Director of the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund. “As a country, we cannot afford to keep missing opportunities to rein in the costs associated with caring for chronic conditions, which account for over 75 percent of all healthcare spending. The Long-Term SCORE Act will help us finally realize the savings associated with reining in these unsustainable costs.”

For more information, please visit the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund’s website at [www.obesityactionfund.org](http://www.obesityactionfund.org).

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#### **About the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund**

By bringing together leaders from across industry, academia and public health with policymakers and their advisors, the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund advocates for needed policy changes to reverse the nation’s costliest disease.