

## **Representative Josh Brecheen, OK-02**

### **House Budget Committee Member Day Hearing Remarks – 3 MINUTES**

Chairman Arrington, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

America is staring down a fiscal emergency. Our national debt has now soared past \$38 trillion—a sum larger than the entire U.S. economy. Interest payments alone are already higher than what we spend on national defense. That means before we fund a single soldier, ship, or plane, Washington will be writing checks to our creditors. This is unsustainable, and it is immoral to pass this burden onto our children and grandchildren. As our founding fathers warned us, a public debt is a curse.

The truth is simple: Washington does not have a revenue problem; it has a spending problem. Decade after decade, Congress has piled on new programs, new entitlements, and bloated appropriations, while ignoring the consequences. Every borrowed dollar today is a stolen dollar from the next generation. If we do not act now, we risk a debt spiral that will cripple our economy and weaken our national security.

We also recognize that we have only one more year under the leadership of Chairman Arrington. His commitment to fiscal discipline has been critical in advancing reforms, and we must maximize this time to produce results. That includes pursuing a second reconciliation process focused on overhauling healthcare – making it more affordable, transparent, and sustainable. Healthcare costs are a major driver of federal spending, and reform in this area is essential if we are serious about bending the debt curve.

That is why I urge this Committee to lead with courage and discipline. First, we must enforce real caps on discretionary spending—no gimmicks, no loopholes. If Congress exceeds those caps, automatic across-the-board reductions should trigger immediately. Second, we must restore transparency and accountability. Require offsets for all new spending. Require updated debt projections from CBO tied to every major bill, including spending bills.

We also need to fix the calendar. No more governing by continuing resolutions and last-minute omnibus packages. The American people deserve a transparent process, not backroom deals that explode the debt.

Finally, we must remember that balancing the budget is not just about numbers. It is about freedom. A nation buried in debt cannot remain strong, independent, or secure. Cutting spending and restoring discipline is the only way to preserve opportunity for the next generation.

Mr. Chairman, colleagues, the time for half-measures has passed. At \$38 trillion in debt, America is on the edge of a fiscal cliff. Let us act now. Cut spending, enforce accountability, and balance the budget before the crisis overtakes us.

Thank you.