

House Committee on the Budget
Member Day Hearing
December 3, 2025
Written Testimony of Representative Michael Cloud (TX-27)

Chairman Arrington and members of the Committee, thank you for holding this member day to allow us to share our priorities and concerns within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee. I am here because the national debt and deficit spending is a top concern of mine. We cannot keep saddling our children and their children with an insurmountable debt, and we must right our fiscal ship to ensure a healthy economy, stabilize the dollar and bond markets, and protect our future generations.

I primarily want to focus on the issue of interest costs on our national debt. Currently, debt servicing accounts for the third largest share of our national deficit per year at over \$1 trillion dollars, with Social Security and Medicare ahead by just a few hundred billion more.

The first bill I introduced in Congress back in 2018 was the Cost Estimates Improvement Act. The Cost Estimates Improvement Act would require the Congressional Budget Office to incorporate interest costs when scoring bills. Were scored bills to include interest costs, Congress would have a clearer picture on just how much money we are spending that we don't have, and we would hopefully be a little wiser with the situation we are putting our future generations through. Without debt servicing costs being scored, Congress has inadequate information when deciding on these large bills and spending measures that we vote on.

I have reintroduced the Cost Estimates Improvement Act, H.R.991, with bipartisan support and the same text to what passed out of this Committee last Congress with a bipartisan vote. I ask the Committee to consider this bill in an upcoming markup. It's common sense and foundational for trying to reverse the curse of our public debt.

Additionally, I share the concerns of the Budget Committee on the need for increased transparency from the CBO. While I appreciate that the CBO has tried to start taking some action to remedy our concerns, they really just need to show us their work when scoring bills. Representative Warren Davidson's CBO Show Your Work Act, H.R.724, would do just that, requiring the CBO to publish its models, data, and assumptions it uses when scoring legislation.

CBO estimates have been off by wide margins, particularly biased against Republican bills. Their scoring of the Inflation Reduction Act failed to account for trillions of dollars in Green New Deal tax handouts, which we shut the spigot off with H.R.1. At the same time, their

Health Division, which according to the Foundation for Government Accountability is 93% Democrat and without a single Republican, has scored every Republican health care measure dramatically off over the last decade.

I appreciate the committee for having me here today, and I hope that you will consider my Cost Estimates Improvement Act and the CBO Show Your Work Act and send these bills to the floor.