

Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI-4) Testimony – 3 MINUTES

12.3.25 – House Budget Committee

Mr. Chairman, thank you for inviting me to testify today. Just as I did when I testified here two years ago, I'm urging the Budget Committee's action on the Fiscal Commission Act. While the legislation is unchanged since it was amended and passed by this committee in a bipartisan vote of 22-12, our nation's severe fiscal crisis has only deepened.

In fact, the national debt has grown by \$4 trillion up to \$38.3 trillion, the interest we pay on this debt now exceeds our defense budget, and 23% mandatory Social Security cuts driven by insolvency are now more imminent than before. They're projected to come in 2034 after an 11% Medicare cut in 2033. The status quo guarantees irreparable harm.

Now, H.R. 3289, the Fiscal Commission Act, is still the most bipartisan, practical, and immediate path forward – if not the necessary one – for Congress to take. Our thirty eight equally bipartisan cosponsors and organizations across the political spectrum agree.

Having studied this topic with the bill's co-lead and my Bipartisan Fiscal Forum Co-Chair, Representative Scott Peters of California, I can assure you this fiscal commission proposal was built on the failures and successes of past commissions.

Our commission proposal features equal representation from both chambers and parties, is transparent and focused on clear goals, retains Congress' constitutional duties, and has real teeth.

Specifically, this bill forces Congress to vote on a package of proposals developed by a bipartisan, bicameral fiscal commission. The four corners of congressional leadership each appoint four members—sixteen in total—

including three colleagues from their chamber and one nonvoting private-sector representative.

This commission must craft a package of recommendations that meets clear goals, detailed in the legislation, to both improve the fiscal situation in the medium term and to achieve a sustainable debt-to-GDP ratio in the long term. For any recommendations related to Federal programs for which a Federal trust fund exists, the Commission must improve their solvency for a period of at least 75 years.

Additionally, the Commission will be proactively transparent and educational by holding at least six public hearings, conducting a public awareness campaign, and issuing an interim report.

The Commission will vote on its final package the week after the 2026 election—or, if extended, by April 13, 2027. A simple majority is required to move the proposal to Congress, provided it includes at least two members of each party.

Finally, once submitted, Congress must vote on the recommendations without amendment and without delay under expedited procedures in both chambers.

In the course of its work, the Commission will leave no policy option or opportunity overlooked. As a result, if a Fiscal Commission forces a vote on this issue that Congress has been punting for far too long, it won't be an easy vote for any Member. But it could create the last best chance we have to avoid financial ruin. Thank you.