

REP. MIKE QUIGLEY (IL-05)

H.R.1302, THE TRANSPARENT AND SUSTAINABLE BUDGET ACT

Cosponsors: Jim Himes (CT-04), Gary Peters (MI-09), Jared Polis (CO-02), Peter Welch (VT)

REINVENTING GOVERNMENT: THE FEDERAL BUDGET, PART ONE

Why It's Unsustainable & What We Can Do About It

"The proliferation of tax expenditures is a problem, not because tax expenditures are inherently bad, but because they allow legislators to spend money without any of the accountability of normal outlay programs while at the same time being framed as tax cuts. Tax expenditures also tend to persist in the tax code out of inertia rather than because of any active effort to keep them. In that sense, it is not only easier to create new tax expenditures, but it is also much harder to eliminate existing ones."

Three Recommendations from *Part One*

- ▶ *No tax expenditure should be enacted that does not sunset inside the 10-year budget window.*
- ▶ *The Department of Treasury, in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget and the policy-relevant federal agency, should issue regular performance reviews of all tax expenditures.*
- ▶ *There should be more publicly available data for evaluating tax expenditures.*

REINVENTING GOVERNMENT: THE FEDERAL BUDGET, PART TWO

60 Recommendations to Reduce the Deficit by \$2 Trillion over Ten Years

"Tax expenditures amount to approximately \$1.2 trillion in forgone revenue that the federal government spends through the tax code each year. To put that in context, total discretionary spending in 2010 amounted to \$1.3 trillion, as did our 2010 deficit; and in just one year tax expenditures cost taxpayers as much as the last 10 years in Afghanistan and Iraq combined."



For more information, please go to:

<http://quigley.house.gov/reinventing>