

Charge: The BBA Increases Spending in the Short Term

The Bipartisan Budget Act reduces spending over the next 10 years—and beyond. This bill keeps 70 percent of the sequester’s savings in the next two years—and 92 percent of those savings overall. This bill further protects these savings by getting Democrats to support them.

Charge: Only the Cuts in the Short Term Matter

By making changes *in statute*, this agreement actually makes deficit reduction more likely. The sequester focuses on discretionary spending, which is a shrinking part of the federal budget. By focusing on mandatory spending—where the real problem is—the bill will much more likely achieve real savings.

Charge: The Savings Are Severely Back Loaded

Changes in mandatory spending take effect immediately and grow over time. For example, new federal employees will contribute more to their retirement starting in January 2014. This reform will save \$6 billion over the next 10 years, and over three times that much in the second decade.

Charge: The Mandatory Cuts Won’t Happen

The mandatory sequester is working *right now*. It is reducing mandatory spending in the current fiscal year by \$18.8 billion. This bill does nothing to eliminate or reduce the mandatory sequester.

Charge: The BBA Violates the Spirit and Time Frame of the BCA

The Budget Control Act (BCA) was meant to cap discretionary spending and then to have the super committee find an additional \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction. The timing of that deficit reduction was left entirely to the discretion of the committee. It was only after the talks fell apart that the BCA’s specific schedule of deficit reduction was established. The Bipartisan Budget Act picks up where the super committee failed by replacing part of the discretionary sequester with changes to mandatory spending. That is *exactly* what the Bipartisan Budget Act does. Additionally, it actually locks in lower discretionary levels than was originally envisioned by the BCA.

Charge: The BBA Is Full of Budget Gimmicks and Fake Savings

This bill includes \$85 billion in scoreable CBO savings. This bill:

- Reduces taxpayer contributions to federal pensions
- Eliminates corporate welfare (e.g., the Ultra Deep Water Research Program)
- Combats fraud in unemployment insurance
- Reduces the risk of a taxpayer bailout of private pensions.
- Ends special treatment for certain student-loan servicers.
- Stops sending government checks to dead people.

Charge: The BBA Is Full of Commonsense Savings That Should Be Standalone Bills

If these savings are commonsense, then there’s all the more reason to support this bill. This deal makes commonsense, bipartisan, and *permanent* reforms to save even more money over time.