



August 13, 2012

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Ryan budget would hurt W.Va., local group says

By [Paul J. Nyden](#)

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — If major new federal revenue is not generated, the House-passed federal budget backed by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., would be likely to damage the Mountain State's economy recovery and future growth, according to a local group.

Ryan's proposed budget cuts would triple the size of "automatic cuts" scheduled to take place in January, according to Ted Boettner, executive director of the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy.

Those cuts would curtail federal money that now helps finance public schools, highway and bridge construction, disaster relief and law enforcement for state government and local communities.

West Virginia would lose \$195 million, or 22 percent of its federal funding, for these programs in 2014 alone, according to a report released last week by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington, D.C.-based non-partisan, non-profit research organization.

(The report, "Deficit-Reduction Package that Lacks Significant Revenues Would Shift Very Substantial Costs to States and Localities is available at: <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3816>.)

Ryan's plan would shift other major costs to states by sharply cutting federal funds for Medicaid and by repealing the federal Affordable Care Act, which was signed into law by President Obama in March 2010.

Boettner said, "Deficit-reduction shouldn't come at the expense of West Virginia's economic future.

"Congress should enact a balanced deficit-reduction package that includes new revenue and replaces the automatic budget cuts scheduled for January.

"It should avoid any unbalanced plans that would deepen cuts in federal aid to states and undermine our state's economic future," Boettner said.

Today, there is widespread and bipartisan support in Congress to reduce the nation's \$16 trillion deficit, which is still growing, over the next decade.

Most federal policy makers agree, Boettner added, that deficit-reduction savings from Social Security, Medicare and defense spending should be limited during the next decade.

As a result, federal funding to help states and local communities could become a major source of federal budget savings and cuts.

By 2021, under the Ryan budget, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, federal grants going to states, counties and cities would be less than half the average size of those grants during the last 35 years.

The long-term plans of the Ryan budget, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities points out:

-- Would reduce federal Medicare funds by 34 percent by 2022, then continue with even more cuts every year.

-- Reduce all "discretionary" grants to states 0.6 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product — less than half the size of average discretionary grants over the past 35 years.

-- Would slash "entitlements" in areas other than Social Security and Medicare, including: Medicaid, food stamps, assistance for disabled veterans and a variety of other federal programs designed to help poor people.

Ryan's budget, Boettner added, would also be likely to cut back federal resources for workforce training programs, as well as existing child-assistance programs for low-income parents who hold jobs.

Reach Paul J. Nyden at pjny...@wvgazette.com or 304-348-5164.

9 Comments**Post a Comment**

Posted By: john42

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Isn't it odd how so many people have forgotten that it was a bipartisan budget document. It's the Ryan-Wyden Budget. Ron Wyden, far-left liberal guy from Oregon, co-sponsored it. Ron Wyden, Democrat senator. But then if a liberal is connected with the proposed budget it would change the way people talk about it. NOT.

Posted at: August 13, 2012 7:33:43 pm

Posted By: dazedwheels

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@john42 - Repeating lies won't magically make those lies into truth:
<http://www.rollcall.com/news/Ron-Wyden-Takes-Issue-With-Mitt-Romney-Linking-Him-to-Paul-Ryan-216838-1.html>
"Gov. Romney is talking nonsense. Bipartisanship requires that you not make up the facts. I did not 'co-lead a piece of legislation.' I wrote a policy paper on options for Medicare. Several months after the paper came out I spoke and voted against the Medicare provisions in the Ryan budget. Governor Romney needs to learn you don't protect seniors by makings things up, and his comments today sure won't help promote real bipartisanship."

Posted at: August 13, 2012 8:30:16 pm

Posted By: bambislayer525

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Boettner failed to mention how much federal income tax each West Virginia taxpayer would save...money the taxpayer could spend as they see fit rather than let the government spend as they see fit.

Posted at: August 13, 2012 10:39:51 pm

Posted By: editerguy

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What dazedwheels says. John 42 is wrong, or is making stuff up. There is no "Ryan-Weidman Budget." Google it, yahoo it, whatever you want, you'll see it does not exist. Ryan and Weidman both worked on some Medicare reform ideas, none of which have actually been formulated into a proposal before Congress. Ryan used this collaboration to deceptively imply that Weidman supports the Ryan budget, but carefully avoided telling an out-and-out lie about it, showing himself to be both dishonest and cowardly. And this is only his second day as vice-presidential nominee.

Posted at: August 13, 2012 10:46:31 pm

Posted By: Rollon...

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Ted Boettner sure does like to tell one lie after another. I can't belive one word Ted Boettner says.

Posted at: August 14, 2012 3:45:35 am