

*Administration of Barack Obama, 2013*

**Statement on Senate Action on Federal Budget Legislation**

*February 28, 2013*

Today Republicans in the Senate faced a choice about how to grow our economy and reduce our deficit. And instead of closing a single tax loophole that benefits the well off and well connected, they chose to cut vital services for children, seniors, our men and women in uniform, and their families. They voted to let the entire burden of deficit reduction fall squarely on the middle class.

I believe we should do better. We should work together to reduce our deficit in a balanced way by making smart spending cuts and closing special interest tax loopholes. That's exactly the kind of plan Democrats in the Senate have proposed. But even though a majority of Senators support this approach, Republicans have refused to allow it an up-or-down vote, threatening our economy with a series of arbitrary, automatic budget cuts that will cost us jobs and slow our recovery.

Tomorrow I will bring together leaders from both parties to discuss a path forward. As a nation, we can't keep lurching from one manufactured crisis to another. Middle class families can't keep paying the price for dysfunction in Washington. We can build on the over \$2.5 trillion in deficit reduction we've already achieved, but doing so will require Republicans to compromise. That's how our democracy works, and that's what the American people deserve.

*Categories:* Statements by the President : Federal budget legislation, Senate action.

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