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Reid to Taxpayers: “Say Ahh!”

Senate Leadership seeks to ram Coburn Omnibus down taxpayers’ throats

WASHINGTON D.C. - The Center for Fiscal Accountability, a project of the national taxpayer advocacy organization Americans for Tax Reform, today denounced Senate Leader Harry Reid’s (D-Nev.) attempt to force a floor vote on the so-called “Coburn Omnibus,” a collection of dozens of bills, most of which are currently held by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) in an effort to protect taxpayers.

Unprecedented in size and scope as well as in practice, the bill seeks to skirt debate by compiling approximately seventy bills into a single bill. This omnibus would total more than \$44 billion in federal spending and call for the creation of more than sixty-five new federal programs.

“Passing the Coburn Omnibus without proper debate and off-setting spending reductions in other areas would only add to the already heavy burden on hard working Americans who are struggling to pay their gas and grocery bills,” said Sandra Fabry, executive director of the Center for Fiscal Accountability. “In order to protect hard-working Americans, each piece of legislation should be carefully considered for its own fiscal impact and merit, and not just shoved down taxpayers’ throats in one big chunk.”

The Coburn Omnibus contains many wasteful and duplicative programs like the regulation of professional boxing, the import, export and transportation of non-human primates, and overseas student travel. Senator Coburn and like-minded fiscal conservatives argue these should at a minimum be carefully evaluated and debated, if not rejected outright, and certainly not simply be considered under a unanimous consent request.

“Efforts to waste billions of dollars and expand government programs and regulations comes as Americans taxpayers just marked Cost of Government Day on July 16, the day when they were finally done paying off their share of all government spending and regulation burdens,” continued Fabry. “Rather than push Cost of Government Day even further into the year, Senators should stand on the side of taxpayers and reject Sen. Reid’s effort to force-feed the Coburn Omnibus to taxpayers. This monstrosity of a bill is just too much too swallow.”

The Center for Fiscal Accountability, a project of Americans for Tax Reform, seeks to shed a light on government expenditures, and to promote transparency, accountability, and restraint in government finance. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org.

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