



This chart illustrates the Congressional Budget Office’s (CBO’s) long-term spending projections. Colored segments represent the relative contributions of Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, and other spending to the overall composition of long-term federal outlays. According to this data, projected over the next 50 years, entitlement spending will grow at 1.4 percent annually, twice the historical rate of growth in government spending.

Automatic spending programs like Social Security and Medicare must be reformed. If they aren’t, the country will be locked into an unsustainable transfer of wealth from the relatively young and poor to the relatively old and wealthy.

Veronique de Rugy [talks](#) entitlement programs vs. social safety net in at Reason.

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