



This by chart Veronique de Rugy compares projected spending under the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform’s plan (Commission’s plan) and spending under the Congressional Budget Office’s Alternative Scenario, identified by the Commission as a ‘plausible baseline’. While the Commission’s proposal represents an annual average decrease in spending of \$436 billion relative to a plausible baseline, the commission’s plan still represents a nominal *increase* in federal spending of \$1.6 trillion by the year 2020.

In spite of its admirable measures, such as the broadening of the tax base and cuts in marginal tax rates, the Commission’s plan is unlikely to address our fiscal crisis.

The Commission’s report fails to address entitlement spending, the major driver of spending growth. Under the CBO’s alternative scenario, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and spending alone will exceed total federal revenue by 2048. By leaving this coming explosion in entitlement spending unchecked, the Commission’s plan fails to restore lasting budget balance.

Instead, the plan offers the classic budget gimmick of increasing spending more slowly than it was scheduled to increase; increasing spending nonetheless. Under this plan government spending will continue to grow in real terms, increasing by an average of \$142 billion annually, with spending capped at a historically high level of GDP – 22%.

The commission’s plan is one with some good ideas but a plan unlikely to address our fiscal crisis; this is a plan that will continue to grow the size of government.

Veronique de Rugy breaks down the [deficit commission’s real changes](#) to spending at The Corner.