

# How Would a Joint Budget Resolution Work?

- Congress passes and President signs a joint budget resolution
- Budget resolution would become a statute with force of law
  - no longer a congressional-only framework
- Options if President / Congress cannot agree:
  - expedited procedures for a concurrent resolution if President vetoes joint resolution
  - automatic CR if appropriations bills are not enacted before start of fiscal year

## **Arguments For Joint Budget Resolution**

- Encourages upfront, comprehensive agreement on budget issues
- Brings President to table early in process
  - may provide clarity and decrease brinksmanship later in year
- Could strengthen budget enforcement with statutory provisions

## **Arguments Against Joint Budget Resolution**

- Creates new fast-track vehicle for making substantive statutory changes
  - could enact any statutory budget enforcement with only majority vote
  - line-item veto could be enacted, sequesters could be turned off
- Increases likelihood of delays in budget process
  - more likely there will be no agreement
- Shifts power to Executive Branch
  - undermines Congressional independence
  - Congress more likely to get blame if process breaks down

# Possible Incentives to Encourage Congress to Pass a Budget

- Strengthen budget committees by increasing membership to include leadership and committee chairs
- Strengthen right of Senators to proceed to and debate budget resolution if Budget Committee or Senate fails to act
- Reform vote-a-rama process to encourage more substantive floor debate on fiscal policy
- Create 60-vote point-of-order against appropriations / spending / revenue bills until a budget is enacted
- Establish an automatic trigger (spending / tax expenditure reductions) as consequence for no budget