

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE

KENT CONRAD, CHAIRMAN

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Contact: Stu Nagurka (202) 224-7436
Steve Posner (202) 224-7925

STATEMENT BY SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KENT CONRAD (D-ND) ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SUPPORT FOR CONRAD-GREGG BIPARTISAN FISCAL TASK FORCE

"I want to applaud President Obama for announcing his support for the bipartisan fiscal task force proposal I have offered with Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH). The President is demonstrating exactly the kind of leadership we need to tackle our nation's long-term fiscal challenges. His support shows that he is determined to do what is necessary to put us back on a sound long-term course.

"Our statutory task force proposal provides the best chance for developing a truly bipartisan solution to this problem. No one political party can solve this on its own. We need both sides of the aisle committed to working together to confront the threat of runaway debt.

"Setting up this task force statutorily guarantees an up-or-down vote in Congress on the panel's bipartisan recommendations. We cannot afford another commission whose product ends up on some shelf collecting dust.

"Now is the time for us to come together. I urge my Democratic and Republican colleagues to put aside partisan and jurisdictional concerns and join us in securing our country's economic future."

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