

# **SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE**

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## **KENT CONRAD, CHAIRMAN**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **STATEMENT BY SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KENT CONRAD (D-ND) ON OMB MID-SESSION REVIEW AND CBO SUMMER BUDGET UPDATE**

“There is not much news in the OMB report because CBO had projected deficits at about these levels several months ago. But these deficit levels confirm what I have said for months – that we are on an unsustainable fiscal course for the future.

“Today’s numbers also reinforce the fact that the status quo on health care is not an option. Health care costs continue to grow much faster than inflation – eating up the budgets of families, businesses and even the federal government. Reform simply must be paid for over the next ten years and also significantly reduce the projected cost of health care over the long-term.

“Health care reform must provide a significant down payment on addressing our long-term fiscal imbalance. In addition, I continue to believe that we need a special process that deals comprehensively with all of the causes of our growing national debt including Social Security, health care, and our outdated and inefficient revenue system.

“We need a bipartisan process, similar to what I have proposed along with Senator Gregg, where everything is on the table and where Congress is required to vote on a legislative package.

“Today’s budget numbers send a clear signal that the time for putting off tough choices is over and the time to act is now.”

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