



## United States Senate Budget Committee

**JEFF SESSIONS | Ranking Member**

### Senate Enforcing Obama Appropriation Request, Not Budget Control Act Limits – Summary Version

Section 106(b)(2)(C) of the Budget Control Act requires the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to file aggregate (total) spending limits for fiscal year 2013 consistent with the numbers in the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO's) March 2012 baseline. Specifically:

*Aggregate spending levels for fiscal years 2012 and 2013... [must be] consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2012 baseline and the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.*

Chairman Conrad filed an aggregate on-budget spending limit for fiscal year 2013 of \$2.945 trillion in outlays (see the Budget Aggregates table in the March 20, 2012 *Congressional Record*, page S1832). However, CBO's March 2012 baseline reflects an aggregate outlay level of only \$2.931 trillion. Chairman Conrad's level therefore violates the BCA. The Chairman's level would allow Congress to spend almost \$14 billion more in outlays than CBO's baseline in fiscal year 2013.

Instead of using CBO's baseline to establish the aggregate outlay level, the Chairman appears to have adopted the on-budget outlays associated with the President's 2013 budget request for appropriations (as estimated by CBO). The President's budget proposes a higher rate of discretionary (appropriated) outlays in fiscal year 2013 compared to CBO's baseline. This is because the President employs various gimmicks, such as temporary changes in mandatory spending and phony rescissions, that boost outlays.

In a letter to Chairman Conrad, Senator Sessions has requested that the correct spending aggregates be filed so that the spending limits comply with the BCA.