

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Yes, Use the Debt Ceiling to Control Government Spending](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.wsj.com/articles/yes-use-the-debt-ceiling-to-control-spending-pandemic-gdp-borrow-inflation-wages-interest-profits-economy-trillion-11675270771>

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**Tweet:** Phil Gramm and Michael Solon argue that officially ending the pandemic emergency, clawing back unspent emergency funds, and eliminating eligibility expansions would save at least \$255 billion in 2023-24 alone. @WSJ

**Summary:** The Covid health emergency, like a war, enabled the government to vastly expand its power and spending. Now that the “war” is over, government resists receding to its pre-pandemic level. The debt-limit amendment should not only claw back unspent funds from the \$6 trillion pandemic spending orgy, which would save \$255 billion in 2023-24 alone. By repeatedly extending the pandemic emergency every 90 days, the Biden administration has expanded the number of households eligible for food stamps and dramatically increased average benefits, more than doubling food-stamp spending. The administration has used the Covid emergency to add 20 million people to the Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance Program rolls, sending costs up by \$135 billion. The administrative deadline for the moratorium on student-debt payments has been extended eight times, at a cost approaching \$275 billion.

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