

From: "Rep. Trey Hollingsworth" <trey@mail.house.gov> To: Carter.Moelk@mail.house.gov Subject: Poll: Budget Reconciliation Date: Wed, 25 Aug 2021 18:49:43 -0400

Dear Hoosiers, Between several different pieces of legislation in 2020 and 2021, the U.S. Government has spent more than \$5 trillion on emergency COVID relief. For comparison, the Obama Administration's 2009 stimulus bill, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which aimed to counterbalance the effects of the 2008 recession, totaled \$800 billion. Over the last 18 months, our nation faced unprecedented economic, medical, and social challenges that warranted a response. Much of the \$5 trillion relief was directed at curbing the biological effects of the virus (buttressing hospital supplies necessary to treat COVID patients, testing individuals for COVID-19, researching and developing COVID vaccines, distributing those vaccines, etc.), however, a significant portion of the money went to state and federal agencies to combat the economic effects of the virus as well. For instance, the various COVID relief spending bills included more than \$100 billion for the U.S. Department of Transportation, more than \$45 billion for Emergency Rental Assistance and nearly \$1 trillion for the Small Business Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Since the beginning of the pandemic, Indiana alone has received more than \$8 billion in federal COVID assistance, which the state and localities have spent on schools, businesses, highway construction and unemployment, among other things. This week the U.S. House of Representatives voted on the Senate-passed Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Reconciliation Package, which will amount to another \$3.5 trillion of federal spending on new initiatives. The package would allow up to \$1.75 trillion of new borrowing and could ultimately cost upwards of \$5.5 trillion. Proponents of the Budget Reconciliation Package argue that it included necessary policy priorities such as expanding Medicare and enacting the Green New Deal, and they say the spending is needed to continue the post-COVID economic recovery. Opponents of the package do not believe it is necessary to stimulate the economy right now and object to trillions in new spending immediately following the more than \$5 trillion in unexpected spending over the past year, especially as our national debt has surpassed \$28 trillion.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: Do you think the \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package is necessary to help the economy? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know ☐ Other

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