

# Research Handout: The Fiscal Cliff

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**Why this handout is important:** It may be a bit of an oversimplification, but we will look at 5 fundamental problems with our federal budget and propose our solution to the fiscal cliff as it pertains to these five issues.

If you are going to write your Act on the fiscal cliff, it will be the way you will “frame” your bill. The 5 issues we discuss below will be the 5 areas on which you should focus. You will need to tweak each area to be both realistic for your senator and a reasonable avenue to move forward on a solution to the fiscal cliff.

If you are going to write a bill for the EPW Committee, it will still be imperative for you to understand how your Senator feels about each one of these issues. This will allow you to vote for/against (or propose) any amendments to the bill in question. This will be your primary informative document on the fiscal cliff issue.

<b>The Issues</b>	<b>Step 1:</b> What is the problem associated with this issue? (write a quick summary of the problem here)	<b>Step 2:</b> How does my senator feel about how this issue should be solved? (How has your senator voted, or otherwise expressed an opinion on each of the issues below?)
<b>Spending (Entitlements)</b>  Social security, medicaid, medicare, etc		

<b>Health Care</b>		
<b>Size of the Government</b>		

<b>Defense Spending</b>		
<b>Taxes (Revenue)</b>		