

# Building a Better Budget Process Project (B3P)

Convergence's Building a Better Process (B3P) project engaged an unexpected coalition of budget experts, advocates, and executives who are deeply affected by the budget decisions Congress makes each year. The B3P proposals, released in February 2018, offer practical, politically realistic recommendations to improve the process Congress uses to manage the \$4 trillion annual federal budget. The participants identified five key steps that could prevent future government shut-downs, reduce budget uncertainty, and restore faith in our government. Since the release, the B3P stakeholders have been working with Members of Congress generating interest and support for the proposals.

## Follow our progress:



Matt Owens (L), Association of American Universities and Neil Bradley (R), U.S. Chamber of Commerce

### February 27, 2018 First Annual Better Budget Process Summit

B3P participants Emily Holubowich, Matt Owens, and Neil Bradley released B3P's final proposals for federal budget process reform at an event hosted by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. The Summit took place days after Congress created the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform to explore changes to the budget and appropriations process. Senators David Perdue (R-GA) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), both Members of the Joint Select Committee, also spoke at the event.

### March 1, 2018 Education Campaign Launched on Capitol Hill

From March onward, B3P participants and staff have met with more than 35 Members of Congress or their staff to discuss the budget process reform proposals and explain how this unique group of unlikely allies reached consensus.



### April 17, 2018 Congress Takes Notice

At the first hearing of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform, B3P proposals were already generating interest. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) questioned budget experts testifying in front of the committee about the B3P proposals.

### May 1, 2018 Association of American Universities Forum

Matt Owens, Neil Bradley, and B3P project manager Mike Veselik presented their proposals to government affairs professionals from leading research universities.



Emily Holubowich (L), Coalition of Health Funding and Matt Owens (R), Association of American Universities

### May 9, 2018 Building a Better Budget Process Participants Testify on Capitol Hill

B3P participants Emily Holubowich and Matt Owens testified in front of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform, one of only two groups invited to share their ideas that day. Holubowich and Owens also highlighted the impact of a dysfunctional budget process on the groups they represent and participated in a lively exchange with the Members.

### June 25, 2018 Legislative Branch Capacity Working Group

B3P participants Carlos Fuentes, Pete Sepp, and Lindsay Torrico spoke about their proposals for a better budget process at an event for Capitol Hill staff cohosted by New America and R Street Institute, groups working to help Congress function better.



Pete Sepp (L), National Taxpayers Union (R) and Lindsay Torrico, United Way Worldwide



### June 26, 2018 Bipartisan Working Group

B3P project participants and staff had the rare opportunity to meet with 17 Members of Congress who meet regularly to discuss Congressional proceedings and build relationships across the aisle, and were interested in learning more about the B3P proposals.

### July and Onward

The Joint Select Committee is expected to make their recommendations sometime this fall. B3P members remain engaged in encouraging the committee to make reforms that will help Congress function more effectively.



## And we continue to appear in national media outlets:



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