



Thomas A. Schatz
President

June 29, 2011

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

You will soon vote on Senators Tom Coburn's (R-Okla.) Amendment #521 to S. Res. 116, a resolution to provide for expedited Senate consideration of certain nominations subject to advice and consent. Senator Coburn's amendment would prevent the creation of duplicative and overlapping federal programs. On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this amendment.

On March 1, 2011, the Government Accountability Office published a report titled "Opportunities to Reduce Potential Duplication in Government Programs, Save Tax Dollars, and Enhance Revenue," identifying 34 agencies, offices, and initiatives that provide similar or identical services to the same populations, along with 47 programs that are either wasteful or inefficient. It includes 18 nutrition and food assistance programs, 47 job retraining programs, and 80 economic development programs, along with \$77 billion of waste at the Department of Defense and \$125 billion in improper payments by government agencies, among many others.

While it is gratifying to have a nonpartisan government oversight entity endorse so many of the cuts and consolidations that Citizens Against Government Waste has long supported, Congress can no longer claim ignorance of these duplicative, bloated programs. Senator Coburn's amendment would require an independent review by the Congressional Research Service of every bill to determine if it creates new programs that duplicate existing programs before the legislation can be considered by the Senate. It would also require an explanation as to why the creation of each new program, office or initiative is necessary if a similar program, office or initiative already exists. Such a commonsense solution will help protect taxpayers from unnecessary and wasteful expansions of government.

I strongly urge you to support Senator Coburn's Amendment #521 to help prevent the creation of any new duplicative programs and provide a new level of transparency for lawmakers and taxpayers. All votes on S. Res. 116 will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2011 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Schatz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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