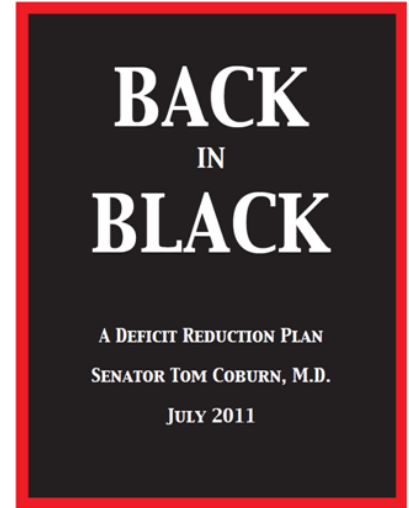


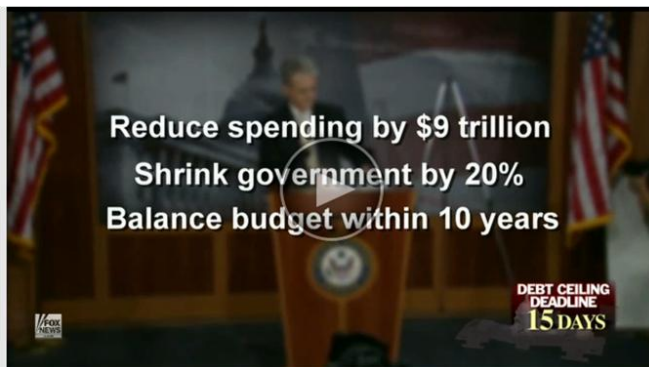
What Are People Saying About *Back in Black*?



“Anyone trying to understand tea-party opposition to raising the debt ceiling—an important reason why the U.S. is flirting with default—may want to download a copy of Sen. Tom Coburn's recent plan on how to cut \$9 trillion from the deficit...The 620-page tome by the Oklahoma Republican, titled "Back in Black," is filled with suggestions to trim government spending. One example: Reduce the federal work force by 15%. Another: Close federal agencies' Hollywood liaison offices” – [The Wall Street Journal](#) 7/29/11

“All told, Coburn’s consolidation of USAID’s Development Assistance funding with the MCC would save taxpayers \$17 billion over the next 10 years. **This is a sensible approach and a good way forward for U.S. foreign aid policy. It is worthy of consideration by Congress as it confronts the need for massive budget cuts**” – [The Foundry](#) 7/27/11

“Coburn’s language echoes a recommendation from the President’s Bipartisan Fiscal Commission, which in December called on Congress to ‘critically review all funded programs and make tough decisions to set priorities and reform or eliminate a number of them.’ **The message is clear and there seems to be broad agreement: We need an evidence-based system to guide future budget decisions that assesses the relative performance and impact of all government programs**” - *John Griffith is a Research Associate and Jitinder Kohli, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress* 7/27/11 (letter)



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“Sen. Coburn's \$9 trillion, 10-year package of debt-reducing measures includes \$1 trillion in reclaimed tax breaks...the idea of cutting tax breaks is officially ‘in play.’ While the Gang of Six's plan doesn't give details, Sen. Coburn's does. His plan takes aim at many small breaks for individuals and three big ones. He would limit the

popular mortgage interest deduction to first homes worth \$500,000 or less, while disallowing deductions for second homes and home-equity loans. He would also limit the working poor to five years of the earned-income tax credit. Instead of allowing open-ended tax-free employer-paid health insurance, Sen. Coburn would institute a tax-free limit of \$7,500 for individual premiums and \$15,000 for families” – [The Wall Street Journal](#) 7/23/11

“And Coburn's report notes some tax deductions are downright ridiculous -- such as an exotic dancer writing off breast enhancements as a business expense. **Though he would reduce or eliminate many tax deductions, he would not raise tax rates. The ratio of spending cuts to**

revenue increases is 7.5 to one...With the White House and lawmakers stuck over how to proceed, Coburn offers a plan that has more spending cuts than anyone else has proposed, as well as some revenues, on which Democrats have insisted” – [Fox News](#) 7/18/11



MSNBC's Morning Joe 7/26/11: Click [here](#) to watch

“Among the proposed cuts in Coburn's plan include \$974.1 billion in cuts from the general government, as well as billions from Congress and the Executive Office of the President. Those reductions would be achieved partially by cutting 300,000 jobs from the federal workforce, and imposing a three-year pay and bonus freeze for federal workers and Congress members” – [CBS News](#) 7/19/11

“Last week, Mr. Coburn presented his own plan to cut \$9 trillion from the federal government over the next decade — **far more than others have proposed** — in a manner that would radically reduce government services but also produce \$1 trillion in new tax revenues” – [The New York Times](#) 7/23/11

“Some legislators have claimed that much of the deficit could be fixed by eliminating waste, fraud and abuse, without coming up with a list of detailed remedies. Coburn has **gone through the entire federal government, office by office, and proposed reducing, eliminating or reconfiguring certain programs and cutting spending on travel and junkets, as well as shrinking operational expenses such as office space rental.** Clearly, Coburn realizes that generalities are easy but specifics are hard — though necessary for accountability” – [The Daily Caller](#) 7/19/11

“In addition to changes to Medicare and Medicaid, **Coburn's proposal would also overhaul Social Security, but would use any savings generated to extend the program's solvency rather than bringing down the national debt.** The plan would also gradually raise the Social Security retirement age by one month every two years beginning in 2022” – [Washington Post](#) 7/18/11



Fox News Greta On the Record: Click [here](#) to watch

“As Sen. Tom Coburn has pointed out in his budget proposal, **cutting fully \$1 trillion from the defense budget over 10 years would put the Pentagon back on the level of annual funding it had just five years ago at the height of the Iraq surge.** In other words, it should be eminently feasible to cuts \$850 billion” – [The American Spectator](#) 8/1/11

“The senator from Oklahoma doesn’t call for doing away with the Bush tax cuts for those with incomes over \$250,000. Instead **he wants to go after tax provisions that benefit millionaire income-tax filers instead of those most in need**” – [Washington Post](#) 8/1/11

“Coburn proposes new requirements on eligibility for food stamps. He wants an end to many farm payments (amen to that!). He proposes cutting some Pell Grant funding and getting the Department of Education out of public schools. He wants to reduce the federal workforce by 15 percent. Some federal transportation dollars would be trimmed. And there is much more in his 600-page report” – [The Oklahoman](#) 7/20/11

“If you’re a small-government type, there’s a lot to like in Senator Tom Coburn’s “Back to Black” deficit-reduction plan” – [The Daily Caller](#) 7/19/11

“Sen. Tom Coburn has put together a plan to cut \$9 trillion from the deficit over the next decade and, **unlike other GOP plans, his includes doing away with more than \$1 trillion in special tax benefits**” – [Newsmax](#) 8/1/11