



## Proposals to Reform the Emergency Spending Process

### Offset emergency spending

The Responsible Budget Targets Act introduced by Rep. Emmer (R-MN) and Sen. Braun (R-IN) [[H.R.7420](#) and [S.772](#)] implements offsets over a six-year period. Establishing an offsetting mechanism gives appropriators the flexibility to address emergencies when necessary while also incentivizing forward-thinking budget planning.

### Raise emergency spending voting thresholds

In 2019, Rep. Walker (R-NC) and Sen. Romney (R-UT) introduced the Budgeting for Disasters Act [[H.R.3217](#) and [S.1579](#)] which increases the number of votes required to waive the Senate point of order against an emergency designation from three-fifths to two-thirds. A well-crafted balanced budget amendment, like those proposed by Sen. Braun (R-IN), Rep. Moran (R-TX), and Rep. Arrington (R-TX), would also set a consistent and enforceable two-thirds supermajority for emergency spending. Raising this voting threshold would help deter the use of emergency funds for non-emergency priorities.

### End executive emergency declarations after 30 days

The ARTICLE ONE Act introduced by Rep. Roy (R-TX) [[H.R.3988](#)] and the REPUBLIC Act introduced by Sen. Paul (R-KY) [[S.4373](#)] rein in excessive emergency powers by restricting presidential emergency declarations to 30 days unless reauthorized by Congress. Creating a “shot clock” where emergency declarations automatically expire unless extended by Congress would limit costly executive overreach and challenge the never-ending state of emergency.

### Enhance transparency over executive emergency spending

The National Emergency Expenditure (NEA) Reporting Transparency Act introduced by Rep. Gosar (R-AZ) and Sen. Marshall (R-KS) [[H.R.4615](#) and [S.2300](#)] requires that NEA expenditure reports be made publicly available. The public and concerned legislators deserve to know how the executive uses taxpayer dollars during emergencies.

### Correct the budget baseline distortion

The Stop the Baseline Bloat Act [[H.R.8068](#)] introduced by Reps. Grothman (R-WI) and Case (D-HI) removes emergency spending from the budget baseline. The No Bias in the Baseline Act introduced by Rep. Cline (R-VA) and Sen. Braun (R-IN) [[H.R.8979](#) and [S.4660](#)] makes the same change along with several other revisions to the baseline. Treating temporary emergency provisions as permanent and growing expenditures creates an insidious ratcheting effect, baking in a bias towards higher spending.

### Justify and track emergency spending

The House Budget Committee recently released [discussion drafts](#) to reform the budget process, including a proposal to justify and track new emergency designations. Requiring lawmakers to include a findings section justifying new emergency designations and mandating annual tracking of these costs are two common-sense changes that will strengthen fiscal oversight. Additionally, Congress should task nonpartisan legislative agencies, such as the Government Accountability Office, with more regular reporting on emergency spending, given its growing share of the federal budget.