

Dear Friends,

This e-newsletter kicks off a series called "Budget Solutions." Over the next few weeks, I will share with you some straight-talk about our national debt...and the commonsense solutions we can implement to reduce it.

Our current debt -- about \$14 trillion -- is one of the most serious challenges we confront. The amount we have borrowed is simply unsustainable. It is immoral to ask our children and grandchildren to pay the bills we incur.

We must reduce debt. We must cut spending. We must increase revenues. We must reform and strengthen entitlement programs.

But it must be fair...and it must NOT undermine the middle class.

Over the summer, I will periodically email you ideas on how we can make the right decisions to lower the debt by reducing spending smartly, increasing revenues fairly, and continuing investments in middle class economic security.

We begin this week with some basic questions and answers about our debt. I have created a Q&A about the budget that you can visit on my website.

There are commonsense and bipartisan solutions. In my next newsletter, I will discuss tax simplification, reducing corporate loopholes, and ensuring that everyone pays their fair share of revenues.

Your ideas are welcome. Please email me and let me know your thoughts. And for more information, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Member of Congress