

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Eileen Parlow
(202) 512-7356
ParlowE@fasab.gov

September 2, 2008

FASAB Releases Exposure Draft on Fiscal Sustainability Reporting

Mr. Tom L. Allen, chairman of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB), announced the release of an exposure draft, *Reporting Comprehensive Long-Term Fiscal Projections for the U.S. Government*.

One of FASAB's federal financial reporting objectives—the stewardship objective—includes enabling readers to determine whether future budgetary resources will likely be sufficient to sustain public services and to meet obligations as they come due. Mr. Allen noted that “the question of the long-term fiscal sustainability of U.S. government services may be among the most important questions of our time. The Board believes that fully meeting the stewardship objective requires non-traditional approaches to complement and enrich the information from the federal government's balance sheets and operating statements. The proposed reporting will include information about projected trends in the federal budget deficit or surplus and the federal debt and how these amounts relate to the national economy.”

Comments on the exposure draft are requested by January 5, 2009 and a public hearing will be held on February 25, 2009.

Since the objective of the proposed reporting is not only to provide information that is useful and necessary in assessing fiscal sustainability but also to effectively communicate the information in way that is meaningful and understandable to readers, FASAB is particularly interested in receiving comments from the general public.

The exposure draft is posted on the FASAB website at: <http://www.fasab.gov/exposure.html>. A hard copy is available upon request by calling the FASAB office at 202-512-7350.

Acknowledgment

In developing this exposure draft, the Board received input from a Fiscal Sustainability Reporting Task Force comprising experts in numerous fields including economic projections, federal budgeting, and communication.

The FASAB acknowledges with gratitude the invaluable expertise and support of the Task Force participants.

The views expressed in the Board's exposure draft represent the views of the FASAB members and should not be attributed to the Task Force participants or to their organizations.

Members of Congress

The Honorable James Cooper, D-TN

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway, R-TX

Federal Government Participants

James Duggan, PhD, Senior Economic Advisor for Social Security, Office of Economic Policy, Department of the Treasury

Patrick Locke, Chief, Budget Analysis Branch, Office of Management and Budget

Robert B. Anderson, Senior Economist, Office of Management and Budget

Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration

Richard Foster, Chief Actuary, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Thomas McCool, PhD, Director, Center for Economics, Government Accountability Office

Benjamin R. Page, PhD, Principal Analyst, Macroeconomic Analysis Division, Congressional Budget Office

Non-Government Participants

Joseph Antos, PhD, Wilson H. Taylor Scholar in Health Care and Retirement Policy, American Enterprise Institute

Allen Schick, PhD, Visiting Fellow in Governance Studies, Brookings Institution

Jagadeesh Gokhale, PhD, Senior Fellow, Cato Institute

Robert Bixby, JD, Executive Director, Concord Coalition

Paul Posner, PhD, Director, Master's in Public Administration Program, George Mason University

Gary Kreps, PhD, Chair, Department of Communication, George Mason University

Sheila Weinberg, CEO and Founder, Institute for Truth in Accounting

C. Eugene Steuerle, PhD, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute (now Vice President, Peter G. Peterson Foundation)

ABOUT FASAB

Accounting and financial reporting standards are essential for public accountability and for an efficient and effective functioning of our democratic system of government. Thus, federal accounting standards and financial reporting play a major role in fulfilling the government's duty to be publicly accountable and can be used to assess (1) the government's accountability and its efficiency and effectiveness, and (2) the economic, political, and social consequences of the allocation and various uses of federal resources. The FASAB issues federal accounting standards after following a due process consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding under which it operates. Due process includes consideration of the financial and budgetary information needs of citizens, congressional oversight groups, executive agencies, and the needs of other users of federal financial information.

For more information on FASAB, please visit our website: www.fasab.gov.