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Replace the Sequester with Real Savings, Not Gimmicks
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Yesterday, a measure was unveiled in the Senate to replace the automatic sequestration for 2013 with “savings” from reduced spending levels for operations in Afghanistan and in other countries, relative to increasing current spending with inflation.

“This is a gimmick; full stop,” said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. “We should certainly replace the mindless, across-the-board cuts in the sequester – but with an intelligent deficit reduction plan, not phantom savings from a drawdown that is already taking place.”

“The purpose of the sequester was for lawmakers to force themselves to agree on deficit reduction, and replacing it with these phony savings would undermine their credibility,” added MacGuineas. “Instead of expending energy trying to game the system, Members of Congress and the White House should continue the productive discussions that have started recently about how to come together on a larger package to put the debt on a downward path.”