



SHARED SACRIFICE: DEBATING THE CONTOURS OF U.S. DEFICIT REDUCTION

Hosted by the ASPEN INSTITUTE INITIATIVE ON FINANCIAL SECURITY

A PANEL DISCUSSION THAT WILL IDENTIFY MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE U.S. FISCAL DEFICIT AND DISCUSS PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT IN THIS POLITICAL CLIMATE. PARTICIPANTS WILL FOCUS ON TAX REFORM, PROPOSED CHANGES TO SOCIAL INSURANCE PROGRAMS, AND THE REAL-LIFE EFFECTS AMERICAN TAXPAYERS WILL FACE.

DEAN BAKER, CO-DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH

Dean Baker is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC. He is frequently cited in economics reporting in major media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, CNN, CNBC, and National Public Radio. He writes a weekly column for the *Guardian Unlimited* (UK), and his blog, *Beat the Press*, features commentary on economic reporting. His analyses have appeared in many major publications, including the *Atlantic Monthly*, the *Washington Post*, the *London Financial Times*, and the *New York Daily News*. Dean previously worked as a senior economist at the Economic Policy Institute and an assistant professor at Bucknell University. He has also worked as a consultant for the World Bank, the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, and the OECD's Trade Union Advisory Council. He was the author of the weekly online commentary on economic reporting, the *Economic Reporting Review* (ERR), from 1996 - 2006. He received his Ph.D in economics from the University of Michigan.

DAVID LEONHARDT, COLUMNIST
THE NEW YORK TIMES

David Leonhardt's *New York Times* column, *Economic Scene*, appears on Wednesdays. David has been writing about economics for *The Times* since 2000 and has been a columnist since 2006. He was one of the writers who produced the paper's 2005 series on social class in the United States. He is also a staff writer for *The Times Magazine* and contributes to the *Economix* blog. A New York native, he studied applied mathematics at Yale. Before coming to *The Times*, David worked for *Business Week* magazine, in Chicago and New York, and for the metro desk of *The Washington Post*.

LISA MENSAH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ASPEN INSTITUTE INITIATIVE ON FINANCIAL SECURITY

Lisa Mensah is an expert in using financial tools to improve the economic security of the working poor. At Aspen IFS, Ms. Mensah leads an advisory board of corporate executives and experts to explore financial products that build wealth from birth to retirement for America's working families. Ms. Mensah began her career in commercial banking at Citibank prior to working 13 years with the Ford Foundation. Serving as Deputy Director of Economic Development for the organization, Ms. Mensah led the Foundation's work in microfinance and women's economic development. She became the leading national funder of individual development accounts (IDAs) – innovative savings accounts structured with matching incentives and personal financial training used to finance homeownership, entrepreneurship and education. Under Ms. Mensah's leadership, IDAs grew from

The Aspen Institute Initiative on Financial Security is a leading policy program focused on bold solutions to help all Americans at every stage of life to save, invest, and own.

an experiment at a handful of sites to become a tool used by hundreds of community organizations in all 50 states. Ms. Mensah holds an M.A. from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. from Harvard University.

GROVER NORQUIST, PRESIDENT
AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

Mr. Norquist is president of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), a taxpayer advocacy group he founded in 1985 at President Reagan's request. ATR is a coalition of taxpayer groups, individuals and businesses opposed to higher taxes at the federal, state and local levels. ATR organizes the TAXPAYER PROTECTION PLEDGE, which asks all candidates for federal and state office to commit themselves in writing to oppose all tax increases. To date, 172 House members and 34 Senators have taken the pledge. On the state level, 7 governors and over 1100 state legislators have taken the pledge. Norquist chairs the Washington, DC - based "Wednesday Meeting," a weekly gathering of more than 150 elected officials, political activists, and movement leaders. The meeting started in 1993 and there are now 61 similar "center-right" meetings in 47 states.

ANDREW STERN, SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW
GEORGETOWN PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Stern conducts and coordinates research efforts on a number of social policy issues, including wage reform, labor policy, and retirement security. Stern previously served as the President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) from 1996-2010. Stern began working as a Pennsylvania social service worker and member of SEIU Local 668 in 1973 and later served as SEIU's national organizing director before his election as president in 1996. During his presidency, SEIU grew by 1.2 million members, built alliances with business and advocacy organizations and challenged the American labor movement to focus more on organizing new workers. Stern led the move in 2005 to disaffiliate SEIU with AFL-CIO. He also transformed the national labor landscape by founding the Change to Win labor federation with six other major unions. Stern is a Presidential Appointee to the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. He currently is a lifetime Trustee of the Aspen Institute and he serves on the boards of directors of the Broad Foundation, Open Society Institute, and the Clean Economy Center.

EUGENE STEUERLE, RICHARD B. FISHER CHAIR AND INSTITUTE FELLOW
THE URBAN INSTITUTE

Eugene Steuerle is Richard B. Fisher chair and Institute Fellow at the Urban Institute, and a columnist under the title *The Government We Deserve*. Among past positions, he has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Analysis (1987-1989), President of the National Tax Association (2001-2002), chair of the 1999 Technical Panel advising Social Security on its methods and assumptions, Economic Coordinator and original organizer of the 1984 Treasury study that led to the Tax Reform Act of 1986, President of the National Economists Club Educational Foundation, Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, Federal Executive Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and a columnist for the *Financial Times*. Dr. Steuerle is the author, co-author or co-editor of fifteen books and close to one thousand articles, briefs, and Congressional testimonies. He serves on advisory panels or boards for the Congressional Budget Office, the Government Accountability Office, the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the Independent Sector, the Aspen Institute Initiative on Financial Security, the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, and the Partnership for America's Economic Success. Among other honors, he received Outstanding Alumnus awards from his college and high school and the first Bruce Davie-Albert Davis Public Service Award from the National Tax Association in 2005.

The Aspen Institute Initiative on Financial Security is a leading policy program focused on bold solutions to help all Americans at every stage of life to save, invest, and own.