

## **Sequestration**

- *ROA urges Congress to rescind sequestration, to ensure funding for critical defense spending, and address revenue and expenditures through other means.*

Sequestration has adversely impacted the U.S.'s military's preparedness and its ability to make key investments to ensure a viable national strategy. Defense spending has been subject to across-the-board spending cuts as a result of this budget mechanism rather than having national strategy drive mission critical areas that are essential for national security. In the face of increasing security threats and instability across the globe, it is imperative that Congress resolve the budget challenges facing the nation.

Currently, the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund has been used to circumvent the sequestration's budget caps for defense spending. Although this has allowed defense spending to increase from the original projected budget of \$577,000,000 to \$605,000,000, this is only a temporary measure. It does not eliminate future cuts to defense spending and places Congress in a position to employ this technique if it wishes to increase defense spending above budget cap levels. It would be more effective to rescind sequestration and make targeted adjustments to federal programs based on priority of the nations needs.

Discretionary spending does not have to be a primary target for spending cuts when looking to trim the national deficit. Mandatory spending from social welfare programs has taken an increasing share of the budget. Reforming these programs to eliminate inefficient spending will decrease federal expenditures, which will lower deficit spending. Also, there are currently \$1.49 trillion in tax breaks the federal government has within its tax code. Eliminating tax loopholes that unfairly benefit particular market participants could provide revenue to fund national defense, a constitutional imperative of the federal government.