

1976

## Arts and Humanities: Program Funding (1976): Correspondence 03

Alice M. Rivlin

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*L. & P.W.*

*4 copies to  
Martin Jensen*

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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March 1, 1976

Honorable Harrison A. Williams, Jr.  
Chairman  
Committee on Labor and Public Welfare  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-344) requires the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to prepare, to the extent practicable, a five-year cost estimate for each bill or resolution of a public character reported by any committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate (except the Committee on Appropriations of each House). CBO is also required to make a comparison of its cost estimate with any available estimate of costs made by the committee or by any federal agency. Section 403 provides that the CBO cost estimate and comparison are to be included in the report accompanying such bill or resolution if timely submitted.

Section 308(a)(1) of the Act provides that whenever a committee of either House reports a bill or resolution to its House providing new budget authority, the report accompanying that bill or resolution is to compare the amounts with the latest concurrent resolution on the budget, indicate the assistance that will go to State and local governments, and project, for five-years, outlays from the budget authority under the bill or resolution. Section 308(a)(2) requires that reports on new or increased tax expenditure legislation explain the effect on existing levels of tax expenditures (as set forth in the latest budget resolution report), and the five-year tax expenditures that will result from the bill. Section 308(a) also provides that the committees develop their estimates after consulting with the Congressional Budget Office.

The Congressional Budget Office is prepared to develop the necessary Section 403 cost estimates and comparisons for any bills or resolutions to be reported from your Committee during the second session of the 94th Congress. We are similarly prepared to provide Section 308(a) advice to any committee intending to report a bill or resolution providing new budget authority or new or increased tax expenditures.

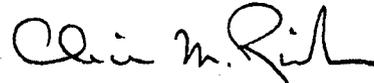
The Tax Analysis Division within the Congressional Budget Office will be responsible for providing assistance concerning tax expenditure and revenue legislation under Sections 308(a) and 403. Mr. Benjamin Okner, Deputy Assistant Director for Receipt and Distribution Estimation (225-3958) will be the principal CBO contact for this type of legislation.

The Budget Analysis Division will be responsible for providing cost information for all other legislation under Sections 308(a) and 403. Mr. C.G. Nuckols, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Estimates (225-5825) will be the principal CBO staff person for carrying out this responsibility. The Budget Analysis Division has designated individual staff members to work with the staff of your committee on the necessary cost information. These individuals either have or shortly will be in contact with your committee staff to work out procedures for the timely submission of this cost information.

It is our objective to be as helpful as possible to your Committee in carrying out the new procedures called for under the Congressional Budget Act. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss these matters further, if you should so desire.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice M. Rivlin".

Alice M. Rivlin  
Director