



Spending All the Way to the Abyss

July 16, 2026

Entire categories of federal spending shouldn't exist.

Now, it would be easy to eliminate budget deficits and to begin to make big and regular dents in the national debt, were it not for one teensy-weensy problem. Just hand me the budget (in electronic form, please) and a red pencil and I'll hack away at the billions and billions. And trillions.

If that would take too long, I'd enlist a team of like-minded spending cutters to help.

We'd be doing something like what the Department of Government Efficiency,

DOGE, tried to do early in the second Trump administration. DOGE didn't go or wasn't allowed to go anywhere near far enough, though. We know this because the big picture of runaway government spending hasn't changed.

That's what would thwart me and my team too: lack of political will. Or too much political will pulling in the opposite direction. Too many constituencies for all the spending and too many politicians, both parties, catering to the constituencies.

That's the teensy-weensy problem.

The current U.S. national debt is [approaching](#) \$40 trillion. This year, the federal government has already borrowed \$1.4 trillion. These seem like catastrophic amounts. But somehow the U.S. still teeters on the edge of fiscal doom, yet to fall in.

Maybe when we get to a trillion trillions in federal debt and when a billion dollars won't buy a dozen eggs, *then* we will surely see real reform.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.