

Contents

Acknowledgments *page ix*

Part 1. Labels and Consequences: The Failure of Our Fiscal Language

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Fiscal Language and the Fiscal Crisis | 3 |
| 2 | Taxes, Spending, and the Size of Government | 15 |
| 3 | Fun and Games with Budget Deficits | 53 |

Part 2. The Why and How of Long-Term Budgeting

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 4 | What Are We Talking about When We Talk about Budget Deficits? | 71 |
| 5 | Long-Term Measures in Lieu of the Budget Deficit | 97 |
| 6 | Fiscal Gap Politics | 116 |

Part 3. Labels and Policies across Budget Categories

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 7 | Benign Fictions? Describing Social Security and Medicare | 151 |
| 8 | Tax Expenditures | 174 |
| 9 | Welfare, Cash Grants, and Marginal Rates | 194 |

Contents

Part 4. Conclusion

10	Some Modest Proposals	217
	<i>Notes</i>	225
	<i>Bibliography</i>	231
	<i>Index</i>	243