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THE BENEFIT AND THE BURDEN:
FORMER WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR BRUCE BARTLETT
JOINS THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER TO DISCUSS TAX REFORM

Philadelphia, PA (January 19, 2012) – Bruce Bartlett, senior policy maker in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations and author of the forthcoming book, The Benefit and The Burden: Tax Reform-Why We Need It and What It Will Take, visits the National Constitution Center for a conversation about a critical national issue at the epicenter of the 2012 election – tax reform. Bartlett will be joined by notable economist Rosanne Altshuler. This timely event will take place on Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is $7 for members and $10 for non-members. Advanced registration is required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700 or online at www.constitutioncenter.org. This event is part of Election 2012, the Center’s yearlong programming series on the key issues facing Americans during this important election year.

Twenty-five years ago, another politically divided Congress approved the biggest tax code overhaul in our nation’s history. But much has changed since then. Today, there are serious disagreements, from the right and the left, about the size of the government and what taxes American citizens are willing to pay. Adding to the confusion, Americans have little knowledge of who pays what, how much, and when. Tax reform will be a major issue in the 2012 presidential campaign, and voters will expect candidates to lay out plans that confront budget deficits and account for the expiration of various tax cuts. Bartlett and Altshuler will help contextualize the tax reform debate for the audience and explore the advantages and costs of the various proposals that will come to dominate America’s political conversation in the year ahead.

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Bruce Bartlett is a columnist for the Economix blog of The New York Times; The Fiscal Times, an online newspaper covering the economy, business and personal finance; and Tax Notes, a weekly magazine for tax policymakers and practitioners. His writing often focuses on the intersection between politics and economics. Bartlett’s work is informed by many years in government, including service on the staffs of Congressmen Ron Paul and Jack Kemp and Senator Roger Jepsen; as staff director of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress; senior policy analyst in the Reagan White House; and deputy assistant secretary for economic policy at the Treasury Department during the George H.W. Bush administration. He is the author of seven books.

Rosanne Altshuler is a professor in the economics department at Rutgers University. She has been active in both the academic and policy worlds throughout her career. She returned to Rutgers in September 2010 after spending a year as the director of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. Prior to taking the helm at the Center, Altshuler was its co-director and a senior fellow of the Urban Institute. During previous leaves from Rutgers University, she served as senior economist to the President’s Advisory Panel of Federal Tax Reform (2005) and acting special advisor to the Joint Committee on Taxation (2004). She has been a consultant to the U.S. Treasury Department and Finance Canada. Altshuler has taught at Columbia University, Princeton University and New York University’s School of Law.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

The National Constitution Center is the first and only nonprofit, nonpartisan institution devoted to the most powerful vision of freedom ever expressed: the U.S. Constitution. Located on Independence Mall in Historic Philadelphia, the birthplace of American freedom, the Center illuminates constitutional ideals and inspires active citizenship through a state-of-the-art museum experience, including hundreds of interactive exhibits, films and rare artifacts; must-see feature exhibitions; the internationally acclaimed, 360-degree theatrical production Freedom Rising; and the iconic Signers’ Hall, where visitors can sign the Constitution alongside 42 life-size, bronze statues of the Founding Fathers. As America’s forum for constitutional dialogue,
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the Center engages diverse, distinguished leaders of government, public policy, journalism and scholarship in timely public discussions and debates. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, the national hub for constitutional education, which offers cutting-edge civic learning resources both onsite and online. Freedom is calling. Answer it at the National Constitution Center. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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