

Appropriations: Clear Differences
How 2 Months Spending In Iraq Could be Put to Better Use
Example 2: Education
\$5.9 billion = 18 Days in Iraq

WASHINGTON – As Congress [waits](#) for the President to send over the rest of his nearly \$200 billion request covering the [\\$10 billion](#) a month we are spending in Iraq (paid for with borrowed money), he is trying to masquerade as fiscally responsible by manufacturing a fight over \$22 billion (roughly 2 months in Iraq) in investments that will make this a stronger and better country.

What would that \$22 billion achieve? Every day we're going to bring you one specific example of how Congress and the President differ on appropriations.

Example 2: Education

\$5.9 billion above the President's Request = The cost of 18 days in Iraq

On September 26th the President [vigorously defended](#) the No Child Left Behind law. He called on Congress to improve education saying, "Don't go backwards when it comes to educational excellence... We've come too far to turn back."

He talks the talk, but what about walking the walk?

The President's Budget cuts funding for the Department of Education by \$1.2 billion.
(and that's before inflation)

His budget:

- Eliminates funding for [every campus-based student aid program](#) (\$901.4 million) outside of Pell Grants and College Work-Study - impacting 1 million students;
- Recalls \$419 million from Perkins Loan revolving funds used by 1,315 colleges and universities to provide affordable student loans;
- Cuts IDEA [Special Education](#) by \$291 million, reducing IDEA grants that help 6.9 million American kids with disabilities; and
- Cuts or eliminates important programs to produce [quality teachers](#) (\$100 million) and improve [classroom technology](#) (\$272 million).

The House Bill rejects those cuts, investing the equivalent of 18 days in Iraq war costs in the following:

- \$3.2 billion above the President's request into programs that [help families pay for college](#) – benefiting 8.5 million students - to prepare our nation for the 21st century economy. This includes increasing the maximum [Pell Grant](#) from \$4,310 to \$4,700.
- \$1 billion above the President's request for [No Child Left Behind Programs](#) including funding for Title I grants to help low-income kids (+ \$453 million), improving teacher quality (+ \$400 million), and after school programs (+125 million) while making responsible cuts to problem programs.
- \$850 million above the President's request for [Special Education](#) to help educate the 6.9 million American kids with disabilities.

The differences couldn't be clearer.

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- 53 House Republicans [voted for](#) the Labor, Health, Education bill.
- Read a fact sheet on how the appropriations process this year stacks up against other years since the President took office. <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/CRFactSheet092507.pdf>
- Read the summary the Committee did in February of what the President's budget request would have done: <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/BudgetFY08.pdf>
- Read summaries of the bills that have passed the House: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>
- Look at a table comparing how the President's budget would have funded appropriations bills v. what the House bills would do: <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/302bs09-07.pdf>
- Don't take our word for it, the President's own mid-session review shows just how much he wants to cut domestic agencies (p. 21) <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2008/pdf/08msr.pdf>