

## Appropriations: Clear Differences

# How 2 Months Spending In Iraq Could be Put to Better Use

## Example 9: Job Training and Vocational Education

\$1.3 billion = 4 Days in Iraq

WASHINGTON – Even as the President presents Congress with 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? Here's another example of how Congress and the President differ on appropriations.

### **Example 9: Job Training and Vocational Education**

**\$1.3 billion above the President's Request = The cost of 4 days in Iraq**

The housing market slump, the credit crunch that goes with it, and climbing oil prices have economic forecasters predicting the worst. The current administration has the worst record on job growth since Herbert Hoover. Our economy is in trouble. The situation cries out for investments in first class jobs programs.

**The President's Budget cuts the largest job training and vocational education programs by \$1.2 billion.**

- Training for adults, youth, and dislocated workers is cut by \$609 million, eliminating services for 173,000 people.
- State grants for vocational education are cut in half, by \$581 million.
- Job Corps is cut by \$55 million, eliminating occupational skills training for 4,300 disadvantaged, out-of-school youth who lack education and job skills.

**The House Bills reject those cuts, investing \$1.3 billion above the President's request, roughly the cost of 4 days in Iraq.**

- Just rejecting the President's cuts to **Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker Training** programs, keeping them at 2007 levels, puts them \$609 million above the President's request.
- And just rejecting the President's cuts to **Vocational Education** state grants puts them \$581 million above the President's request.
- A 2.7% increase for **Job Corps** puts that program at \$98 million above the President's request for the nationwide network of facilities that provide training, job placement and support services to at-risk young adults.

The differences couldn't be clearer.

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