



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503**

June 19, 2008
(House)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
H.R. 2642 – Supplemental Appropriations Bill of 2008

The Administration supports House passage of H.R. 2642 because it is consistent with the principles laid out by the President for an acceptable bill. H.R. 2642 provides our troops the resources they need, does not micromanage our military commanders, and stays within the President's reasonable discretionary spending limits for FY 2008 and FY 2009.

The Administration would have liked to see some of the provisions in the bill considered either on their own or in legislative vehicles not associated with troop funding. However, the Administration supports the decision to provide our men and women in uniform with a GI bill benefit that includes the President's State of the Union transferability proposal. This provision allows military personnel to transfer unused GI education benefits to their spouses or children.

The Administration is pleased this bill does not include any tax increases and that Congress did not enact a full moratorium on all seven Medicaid regulations. However, the Administration calls on Congress to do more to address the very serious issue of waste, fraud, and abuse in this important health care program.

On June 17, 2008, the President called for additional funding for disaster relief in the United States in light of recent flooding in the Midwest. The Administration appreciates Congress' response and allocation of \$2.65 billion for disaster-related accounts to ensure that resources are available for the Federal government to respond to future disasters.

Today marks the 500th day since the President requested funding for our troops. The Administration calls on Congress to complete consideration of this legislation quickly and clear it for the President's signature without amendment.

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