

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Chairman Adam Putnam | Vice Chair Kay Granger | Secretary John Carter

November 2007

THANKSGIVING RECESS KIT



THANKSGIVING RECESS RESOURCE KIT

From President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Annual Message to Congress

January 6, 1941

“In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

“The first is freedom of speech and expression--everywhere in the world.

“The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way--everywhere in the world.

“The third is freedom from want--which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants--everywhere in the world.

“The fourth is freedom from fear--which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor--anywhere in the world.

“That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and

generation. That kind of world is the very antithesis of the so-called new order of tyranny which the dictators seek to create with the crash of a bomb.

“To that new order we oppose the greater conception--the moral order. A good society is able to face schemes of world domination and foreign revolutions alike without fear.

“Since the beginning of our American history, we have been engaged in change -- in a perpetual peaceful revolution -- a revolution which goes on steadily, quietly adjusting itself to changing conditions--without the concentration camp or the quick-lime in the ditch. The world order which we seek is the cooperation of free countries, working together in a friendly, civilized society.

“This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women; and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights or keep them. Our strength is our unity of purpose. To that high concept there can be no end save victory.”

“Save Freedom of Speech”



“Save Freedom of Worship”



“Ours... to fight for--
Freedom From Want”



“Ours...to fight for --
Freedom From Fear”



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November 16, 2007

Dear Republican Colleague:

When going about choosing a cover for this recess pack, I settled on Norman Rockwell's "Freedom From Want," which is one in a series of prints inspired by the Four Freedoms outlined by President Franklin Roosevelt in his 1941 State of the Union.

I've reprinted the speech and the images here because they serve as powerful reminders of what we were sent here to do – to preserve these simple and enduring freedoms, to empower working families with the tools to compete, and to do everything in our power to keep our children safe.

It's clear that Democrats in Washington have lost touch with the needs of real people with real concerns. Broken promises. Misguided priorities. Etch-a-sketch governing. It's a pattern of incompetence we long ago became accustomed to, but it's reached new lows this autumn – and the American people have taken notice.

The extent to which Democrats have grown tone deaf to the needs of middle America is appalling. The worst kind of leaders, whether they run a repair shop or a Fortune 500 company, are the isolated kind; they spend so much time trying to please all comers, they end up plucking the important decisions out of thin air and hoping they stick.

The times we live in are too critical for insular leaders. Right now, our country needs decision makers who are ready to deal with the challenges we face and speak to the issues that resonate on Main Street.

This fall, House Republicans have enjoyed as successful a stretch as we have had in the minority because at every turn, we have held the majority accountable, and more importantly, we have been right on the issues.

We now know how much we can achieve when we rally around the conservative principles that unite us.

Now that we have come to realize the full potential of our positive message of change, we still have a filter to break through. If anti-incumbency is to be the order of the day in the year ahead, there is no guarantee that it will only fall on one party's shoulders, especially now when we have as divided a government as we have had since 1995.

Just because the majority is doing so poorly does not mean we won't be counted among them – when they ask whether you approve of the job Congress is doing, they don't specify, Democrat Congress or Republican Congress.

It's up to us to make the distinction. To that end, in this recess pack, we have included a communications checklist to give you a better sense of what you should be doing right now to prepare for the battles to come. We have also offered sample essays that present our core messages on the critical issues of the day. And because it's that time of year, we talk about Thanksgiving too.

Finally, I want to thank you for your hard work in making this such a successful season. I wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday, and I look forward to seeing you all next month.

If there's anything else you need, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Adam Putnam

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Thanksgiving Speech

It was 230 winters ago in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania – bracing for the worst of the season’s fury – that General George Washington ordered his 12,000 men to celebrate a day of thanksgiving.

Albigeance Waldo, a surgeon at Valley Forge, wrote of the December 18, 1777 festivities in his diary:

"Universal Thanksgiving - a Roasted pig at Night. God be thanked for my health which I have pretty well recovered. How much better should I feel, were I assured my family were in health. But the same good Being who graciously preserves me, is able to preserve them and bring me to the ardently wish'd for enjoyment of them again."

This was not just any winter. The snow was always at least six inches deep, and many of the men’s shoes had been destroyed by long marches. Ripped garments sufficed for blankets, but left the soldiers barely clothed. At any given time, nearly one-third of them were unfit for duty.

But on this one day, they expressed gratitude for life’s gifts. That winter, those brave patriots won a battle not of weapons, but of will, and five years on, a new nation was born.

That celebration was not at all unlike the very first Thanksgiving.

In the autumn of 1620, the Mayflower set sail from London with 103 pilgrims aboard, and after arriving in the Americas, they endured a winter of disease – a deadly combination of scurvy, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. When it was over, they were down to just 53.

Those who remained landed the following spring on Plymouth Rock, obtained the skills needed to survive, and after a bountiful harvest, they put aside three days for a feast. They were joined by the Wampanag Indians, native Americans who had crossed the cultural divide to counsel the settlers on how to fulfill the most basic human needs. A new world was born.

Indeed, Thanksgiving is the most enduring of American traditions because of how powerfully it speaks to our national mission – that from the simple virtues of faith, brotherhood, and hard work emanate the tools needed to endure hardship and achieve lasting greatness.

And as they did at Valley Forge and Plymouth Rock, we take this moment to say, very simply, “thank you,” for the choicest of blessings – the family we care for, the freedom we enjoy, and the land we love.

These gifts which emanate not from any sovereign power or binding document, but from the very same Creator who is responsible for the simple, inalienable rights upon which our nation was founded.

Of course, there are those Americans who defy common reference – men and women who walk tall in the footsteps of those 12,000 who traversed the woods of Valley Forge.

Today, our bravest patriots serve our nation in uniform at home and abroad, each and every one of them is a volunteer.

In answering the call to serve, these heroes and their families have made countless sacrifices – the likes of which we cannot comprehend, and the value for which we cannot compensate.

They and their loved ones represent the promise of this young century, and though we are ever a grateful nation, at this hour, it is their uncommon courage that gives us the power to transform this common day into a thanksgiving.

Autumn 1621, The First Thanksgiving



In their first autumn after settling ashore, the pilgrims who came over on the Mayflower held a feast to mark the end of the harvest season.

The meal took place sometime between September 21 and

November 11, 1621. The pilgrims invited the Wampanoag tribe to join them. These Native Americans had provided the settlers with invaluable guidance in their first months on land by teaching them several survival techniques – including how to catch eel, grow corn, and speak the natives’ language.

The meal was celebrated over a three-day span with the same spirit of celebration and overindulgence that marks the holiday today.

The most detailed description we have of this very first celebration of Thanksgiving comes from Edward Winslow’s *Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth*:

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, among other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed upon our governor, and upon the captain, and others.

"And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

It’s unclear what exactly was on the menu for the autumn feast, but here’s what we know was NOT on the menu. Courtesy of [The History Channel](#):

Ham: There is no evidence that the colonists had butchered a pig by this time, though they had brought pigs with them from England.

Sweet Potatoes/Potatoes: These were not common.

Cranberry Sauce: The colonists had cranberries but no sugar.

Pumpkin Pie: It’s not a recipe that exists at this point, though the pilgrims had recipes for stewed pumpkin.

This was not, however, the beginning of a tradition. The first feast was not repeated the following year. In fact, the pilgrims believed a thanksgiving to be a religious holiday that entailed attending church and giving thanks to God for a specific event. Back then and back there, religious celebrations would not call for dancing, singing, playing games, and overindulgence. The secular nature of the feast, then, would bar it from being considered a thanksgiving in the minds of the pilgrims.



That having been said, two years later, a day of prayer set to occur during a period of drought was changed to one of thanksgiving because the rain came after the prayers. As such, the Thanksgiving tradition of celebrating after the harvest began to take hold in New England.

Thanksgiving in America

George Washington officially began the tradition of Thanksgiving in the United States by declaring the holiday to be celebrated on **Thursday, November 26, 1789.**

This was not, however, the first celebration of the occasion in the colonies. The Continental Congress had declared several days of Thanksgiving each year and issued its first official proclamation for the holiday to be celebrated nationwide on **December 18, 1777.**

President Washington would issue a second Thanksgiving proclamation in 1795. His successors did not consistently follow suit, however, and up until the 1860s, the holiday was celebrated in different ways on different days in most, but not all, of the states.

It was a series of editorials penned by **Sarah Josepha Hale**, author of “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” that prompted President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 to declare Thanksgiving an **annual federal holiday:**

“I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.



orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged.”

The tradition continued unaltered until 1939, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving up one week, to the second-to-last Thursday of the month. It was in the days of the Great Depression, and FDR thought the longer holiday shopping season would give merchants a much-needed boost.

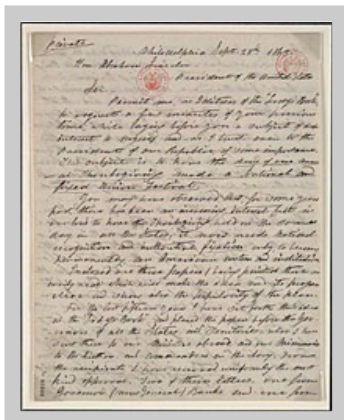
This year marks the **60th anniversary of the first National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation** at the White House. At the annual ceremony, it is tradition that the President grant a full “pardon” to the turkey so that it may live out its natural life free from oppression.

This year’s turkey is from **Dubois, IN.** He will be 21 weeks old and weigh about 45 pounds when he arrives in Washington.

After appearing with the President, the turkey will fly to Disney World in Orlando and serve as grand marshal in Disney’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The **National Football League** has held Thanksgiving contests each holiday since 1920, when the Akron Pros played host to the Canton Bulldogs. The Pros defeated the Bulldogs, 7-0.

This year, the games are as follows:
Green Bay Packers at Detroit Lions, 12:30 PM EST
New York Jets at Dallas Cowboys, 4:15 PM EST
Indianapolis Colts at Atlanta Falcons, 8:15 PM EST



I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to his tender care all those who have become widows,

The Autumn That Was

CNN

“Bottom line, this is not where Democrats would like to be a year after they took control of Congress.” (10/19/07)

The New Republic

“Not to kick a party when it's down, but what in God's name is wrong with congressional Dems?” (11/1/07)

Bad Reviews All Around

Reuters

“A paltry 11 percent gave Congress a positive grade, tying last month's record low.” (10/17/07)

The Sacramento Bee

Voters' views of Pelosi, Congress have dimmed

“For Pelosi, it was the first time the poll showed more people disapproving than approving of her performance – 40 percent to 35 percent.” (10/27/07)

Associated Press

Even Pelosi Is Disappointed in Congress (11/1/07)

The Hill

Internal Dem memo faults party message (10/25/07)

CQ.com

Tough Week for House Democrats Buys GOP (10/18/07)

Congress Daily

For House Democrats, this was a bad week. (10/19/07)

Wrong Priorities for America's Future

Drudge Report

RANKING DEM'S NEW PLAN: 'Largest individual income tax increase in American history'... (10/25/07)

Politico

Democrats zero for 40 on Iraq

“As the congressional session lurches toward a close, Democrats are confronting some demoralizing arithmetic on Iraq...” (11/13/07)

Bloomberg

Pelosi Makes Political Misstep in Reversal on Armenian Genocide (10/19/07)

CNN

Top Democrats propose war surtax (10/2/07)

Associated Press

House Democrats express heartburn over party's latest anti-war strategy (11/9/07)

Spotlight on Abuse

The Wall Street Journal

MURTHA INC.

How Lawmaker Built Hometown on Earmarks

“A review by The Wall Street Journal of dozens of such contracts funded by Mr. Murtha's committee shows that many weren't sought by the military or federal agencies they were intended to benefit. Some were inefficient or mismanaged, according to interviews, public records and previously unpublished Pentagon audits.” (10/30/07)

The Washington Post

A Contractor, Charity And Magnet for Federal Earmarks

“Behind the rise of Concurrent is Rep. John P. Murtha (D-Pa.), chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's defense subcommittee, who helped arrange funding to launch the organization in 1988. Murtha has since arranged millions of dollars more in directed congressional appropriations called earmarks.” (11/2/07)

The Autumn That Was

CQ.com

“Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif., said Republicans know how to frame issues through effective language. ‘They are still better at framing and in this case at framing the negative. They are better at being a mean minority than we were.’” (11/1/07)

The Boston Globe

Tsongas's slim victory signals a derailed Congress

*“Last week's election of Niki Tsongas should have been a moment of celebration for House Democrats. ...Instead, the focus was largely on what some saw as Tsongas's disappointingly small margin, amid growing worries that the Democratic-led Congress was going off its rails. ...[T]here are very few people outside the Democratic leadership who believe that Congress is on the right track. ... **It now seems as though the Republicans ... have regained some of their political footing.**”*
(10/23/07)

Republican Hustle

Roll Call

GOP To Launch New Offensive on Earmarks
(9/20/07)

The Hill

House overwhelmingly condemns MoveOn ad
“Republican leaders had been calling for congressional action since the ad first ran in The New York Times ahead of Petraeus’s testimony on the situation in Iraq.”
(9/26/07)

ABC

House Democrats Pull FISA Bill
“Democrats were concerned that Republicans would have prevailed on a technical motion that says nothing in the bill should interfere with the surveillance of Osama bin Laden...” (10/30/07)

The Wall Street Journal

Congratulations to House Republicans
“They were able to withstand an intense, 15-day, ‘for the children’ offensive calibrated to scare enough Members for an override -- and the line held.” (10/19/07)

The Hill

Nearly all House GOPers back Pence’s discharge petition on Fairness Doctrine (11/14/07)

Associated Press

Stark's comments on war incite GOP backlash
“A House Democrat accused Republicans Thursday of sending troops to Iraq to ‘get their heads blown off for the president's amusement.’ Now, Republicans are demanding a retraction and an apology. (10/19/07)

The Hill

Lawmakers condemn vandalism at Vietnam memorial
“About a dozen lawmakers gathered Thursday to introduce a resolution condemning the recent vandalism of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. ‘This is really an affront to the men and women who served in the Vietnam War,’ Rep. John Carter (R-Texas) said. ‘I’m pretty damn mad about it.’” (9/28/07)

The Hill

Rep. Turner claims victory over flag dispute
“The Architect of the Capitol reversed its policy of excising religious references from certificates presented with flags flown over the Capitol” (10/17/07)

The Charlotte Observer

Hayes takes to TV with some shots of his own
“Rep. Robin Hayes got a lot of, er, mileage out of his objection to congressional staff getting immunized before attending a NASCAR race in his hometown.” (10/15/07)

Communications Ideas for the End of the Year

With the 1st session wrapping up and the holiday season around the corner, it is important to take time now and lay the groundwork for your communications strategy in the new year. We encourage you to plan these activities in order to maximize your time in December and January. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Conference Press Office at (202) 226-9000.

PREPARATION

Identify and enroll surrogates. Now is the time to enroll surrogates who your boss has helped. Media events with local constituents can be extremely effective. Think seniors (to talk healthcare), parents with children (to talk tax relief), and veterans of the War on Terror. Constituents who can speak first-hand to your boss's accomplishments and positions carry significant credibility with the public and the press and will strengthen and enhance your message.

Vote Justifications Are Not Just for LAs. Preparing vote justifications is not busy work. They are helpful documents to support and defend your boss's positions on key issues. They should be prepared with great care, not only for their strength and accuracy but also as a communications tool. A rapid reaction gives you the best opportunity to ensure a story is reported accurately and fairly, and valuable time can be lost attempting to recall nuances, facts and arguments from debates from a year ago. Attaching supporting clips, quotes and research to a hot-button vote justification will allow for rapid retrieval and distribution to the press and the public. To help get you started, we have included a round-up of immigration votes Members have taken during the 1st session.

Issue Packets. Especially in election years, a reporter may call on an enterprise story – that is, a story not about an event, but about a particular issue or series of events related to that issue. Having the highlights of your boss's record on key issues (War on Terror, health care, education, spending, taxes, etc.) on one page will pay off in the future. References to key votes should be accompanied by citations, and positive clips to back up your boss's record should be attached. Nothing says credibility like a newspaper article.

Are Your Clip Books Complete and Well Organized? The minutes following a 5 o'clock phone call from a local reporter is not the time to be searching for that one clip from five months ago that proves your point. Clips about your boss should be well-organized, clean and complete. If at all possible, a mock-up of the clip as it appeared in the local paper should be achieved. Work put in now will pay off in the future.

EXECUTION

Hold Press Conferences on Key Issues. There is no more single, effective local earned media technique than a press conference. Celebrate a victory for constituents. Tout how much money taxpayers are saving because of your successful support of tax relief. Demand to know why House Democrats are breaking their promises on spending, taxes, ethics, etc. Invite local leaders and constituents to join you to reinforce your message. That the attendance does not look like the White House daily briefing does not mean the time spent planning and executing an effective press conference is wasted. The front-page story in the local paper the next day is justification enough.

Meet Your Editors. While much of your boss's interaction with the press is with reporters, we all know the important and decisive roll editors play in news coverage. Scheduling editorial board meetings to speak with the area's news editors and opinion leaders is an important communications tool. It makes possible important face-time with news executives – editors need to hear directly from your boss as much as reporters.

Talk Radio In-Studio. District work periods allow for you and your boss to visit the radio stations they mostly talk with on the phone or through radio actualities. In-studio appearances usually afford your boss more time on-air than over the phone, and cultivating these relationships face-to-face will pay dividends down the road.

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Make The World Wide Web Your Friend, Not Your Enemy. The Internet has proven itself to be an officeholder's best friend when it comes to raising the salience of a pet issue, reaching beyond the traditional Beltway audience, and staying connected to your constituents. Taking advantage of the potential of this medium – for instance, keeping a regular blog – can go a long way in strengthening your grassroots outreach efforts. At the same time, it's important you have a complete grasp of the information that's out there about your boss. There's no excuse for being caught flat-footed when a reporter calls about something they read on a "web site." You may think to immediately discredit information that comes from a "blog," but you should at least know what it is before doing so.

End-of-Year Franked Communications. The end of the year is a tried and true hook for communications. It is a great time to send your constituents a franked communication that reviews your boss's accomplishments and the issues he or she has fought for. It is also a time to preview your boss's plans in the coming year. Franked communications take time to develop and move through the approval process. The time to start is now. Republicans on the House Administration Committee have put together several helpful documents for this process: a [Franking Reference Guide](#) as well as the [2007/2008 Elections Calendar](#) (which includes the blackout periods preceding elections).

Looking for a new earned media idea? Maybe your boss's colleague has already done the hard work for you. Conference Vice Chair Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) has developed Conference's Best Practices web page. Visit it at http://www.gop.gov/best_practices/ for new ideas or fresh twists on old ones.

As always, the Conference is at your disposal to help you brainstorm, strategize, and carry out any and all of these communications strategies.



Fighting for a Better Future for Working Families



Sample Op-Ed: Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT)

If the holiday season is the most wonderful time of year, then it's conceivable that, for many families, tax season is the most stressful time. And while still months away, Washington is already fixing to make it one of the most difficult for working families in some time.

This is all thanks in part to one of those seemingly well-intentioned laws that ends up doing more harm than good: the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT).

The AMT was created by a Democrat Congress in 1969 to prevent the wealthiest of taxpayers from taking enough deductions to avoid paying any federal income taxes.

Congress, however, failed to make it so that the law would adapt to the changing times. Because of inflation, and the effect rising property and state income taxes has had in boosting deductions on federal returns, it's middle class taxpayers, especially married couples with several children, that are disproportionately hit by the AMT.

It's a bureaucratic monster, really, with its own series of forms, own set of rules and its own rules for deductions. In 1970, only 19,000 people owed the AMT; today, the number is in the tens of millions.

To put in perspective the reach of this erroneous tax: in 2010, the AMT could hit every married couple in the U.S. making \$75,000 a year. With no personal exemptions and deductions for children allowed, the AMT represents the cruelest of tax hammers.

It's no wonder then that in her annual report, the IRS's National Advocate listed the AMT as the single most serious problem with the tax code:

"...[T]he complexity of the AMT is such that many if not most taxpayers who owe the AMT do not realize it until they prepare their returns. It adds insult to injury when many of these taxpayers discover that they also owe a penalty for failure to pay sufficient estimated tax because they did not factor in the AMT when they computed their withholding exemptions or estimated tax payments. ... To say the least, 'gotcha' taxation is not good for taxpayers or the tax system."

That's why, in 1999, a Republican-led Congress passed legislation repealing this stealth tax once and for all, but it was vetoed by a Democrat President.

In response to the veto, Republican-led Congresses have enacted one-year patches to prevent this stealth tax increase.

As with all things controversial in Washington these days, a permanent solution is a ways off – but in the here and now, up to 25 million households nationwide are about to be hit with an average tax increase of \$2,000 if the Congress does not act.

As we prepare for a winter where working families will pay more than they ever have to heat their homes and fill up their gas tanks, that's money they are going to need come springtime.

This year, Democrats have gone ahead and come up with a permanent trillion-dollar tax increase to pay for this one-time tax cut. Only in Washington would one law that defies common sense be replaced with another.

In fact, it was a member of the Democrat Party who called this plan a "130% tax increase" and said "we're better than this."

Further, what you may not know is that this is just phase one of a Democrat plan to enact a \$3.5 trillion job-killing tax increase on millions of Americans. A down-payment, if you will.

These tax hikes will do nothing to boost an economy fighting off the effects of dropping housing prices and rising energy

costs. Ours is an economy that rewards the risk-takers and innovators among us – and by taking money out of their pocket, we stifle the potential of our people.

The AMT was a Democrat Congress's mistake, and a Democrat Congress should fix it without passing the burden on to other hard-working taxpayers.

The delay in action has already been costly. As a result of the Congress's inability to act, as many as 50 million American taxpayers could face a delay of up to 10 weeks getting their tax return checks next year.

Even if you are pretty sure the AMT does not affect you, this delay could very well cost you precious time as well. The AMT affects a dozen tax forms. Once the patch is enacted, the IRS will need three weeks to update its forms and a few more weeks to print them out. It will take 10 weeks for computers to process affected returns.

For the last year, Democrats have been pledging to fix this problem, but now with the political season around the corner, they would rather play games with your wallets than actually get something done. We're certainly better than this.

Projected AMT Returns by State in 2007

Created by Democrats in 1969, the AMT's reach has grown dramatically over the years, threatening to hit nearly 23 million Americans with a devastating tax-hike in 2007. Republicans have been pushing for years to permanently repeal the AMT, only to be vetoed by President Clinton. This year, rather than quickly passing a clean one-year patch, Democrats have once again chosen politics over policy – passing more than \$70 billion in permanent tax increases to pay for a one-time-only tax cut.

(Returns in thousands)

State	AMT returns in 2005	Potential AMT returns in 2007 (CRS)	Potential AMT returns in 2007 (CTJ)	State	AMT returns in 2005	Potential AMT returns in 2007 (CRS)	Potential AMT returns in 2007 (CTJ)
U.S.A.	4,068	22,184	22,493				
Alabama	21	112	248	Montana	8	44	51
Alaska	3	18	54	Nebraska	17	92	110
Arizona	49	266	335	Nevada	18	99	146
Arkansas	17	91	136	New Hampshire	15	83	113
California	757	4,129	3,104	New Jersey	283	1,544	1,069
Colorado	46	251	348	New Mexico	11	62	96
Connecticut	99	541	428	New York	523	2,850	1,689
Delaware	9	50	62	North Carolina	93	509	598
D.C.	15	80	49	North Dakota	3	18	38
Florida	161	880	1,052	Ohio	152	827	854
Georgia	102	556	615	Oklahoma	21	117	175
Hawaii	14	74	97	Oregon	48	264	255
Idaho	12	63	89	Pennsylvania	154	837	1,059
Illinois	153	836	993	Rhode Island	17	91	88
Indiana	41	223	419	South Carolina	35	193	268
Iowa	22	121	192	South Dakota	3	17	42
Kansas	26	140	191	Tennessee	25	139	334
Kentucky	31	168	243	Texas	172	936	1,401
Louisiana	22	122	178	Utah	19	106	150
Maine	15	80	82	Vermont	8	43	48
Maryland	134	732	681	Virginia	124	674	682
Massachusetts	146	796	751	Washington	50	273	451
Michigan	93	505	830	West Virginia	9	47	86
Minnesota	74	406	479	Wisconsin	65	353	502
Mississippi	11	60	107	Wyoming	3	17	33
Missouri	47	256	392				

Source: Congressional Research Service (CRS) and Citizens for Tax Justice (CTJ)

2007: THE YEAR OF THE DEMOCRAT TAX BONANZA

COST = OVER \$200 BILLION

Democrats' penchant for free-spending would saddle American taxpayers with more than \$100 billion in new taxes, which does NOT EVEN INCLUDE Chairman Rangel's trillion \$\$\$ "Mother-of-All-Tax Hikes".

Bills Passed by the House	Date Passed	Total Tax Increase Over 10 Years
CLEAN Energy Act of 2007 (H.R. 6)	1/18/07	\$7.7 Billion
Small Business and Work Opportunity Act (H.R. 976)	2/16/07	\$1.4 Billion
Katrina Housing Relief Act (H.R. 1562)	3/27/07	\$241 Million
Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 1677)	4/17/07	\$23 Million
Estimated Tax Safe Harbor Act (H.R. 1906)	4/19/07	\$14 Million
War Funding Supplemental (H.R. 2206)	5/24/07	\$4.9 Billion
Andean Trade Preferences Act (H.R. 1830)	6/27/07	\$105 Million
Farm Nutrition and Bioenergy Act of 2007 (H.R. 2419)	7/27/07	\$7.5 Billion
The Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Act (H.R. 2776)	8/4/07	\$15.3 Billion
Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007 (H.R. 3648)	10/4/07	\$2 Billion
Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007 (H.R. 3056)	10/10/07	\$1.2 Billion
Childrens Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3963)	10/25/07	\$71.5 Billion
Trade and Globalization Assistance Act (H.R. 3920)	10/31/07	\$12.2 Billion
The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Act of 2007	11/6/07	\$2.2 Billion
Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007 (H.R. 3996)	11/9/07	\$76 Billion
Total		\$202.3 BILLION

A Top Ten: The Mother of All Tax Hikes (MATH)

1. MATH Would Raise Taxes by \$3.5 Trillion. Initially tagged at \$1.3 trillion, the bill raises taxes by a whopping \$3.5 trillion over the next 10 years in the event the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 expire and the AMT is not fixed. ([Ways and Means Republicans, 11/8/07](#))

- **Bloomberg:** “Last week, just in time for the Halloween season, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel gave American voters a chilling glimpse of what U.S. tax policy will look like if a Democrat wins the White House in 2008. ... If the ‘mother of all reforms,’ as he calls his tax plan, had a name, it would be Mrs. Bates. But, unlike Norman's mother in the Alfred Hitchcock classic ‘Psycho,’ this lady is very much alive. **In terms of revenue, Rangel's reform would be the biggest tax increase in history ... But the revenue grab isn't the scariest part. That honor belongs to the increase in marginal tax rates, which is almost unfathomable in its scale.**” ([Op-Ed by Kevin Hassett, 10/29/07](#))

2. MATH Would Hurt the U.S. Economy. The output of the economy as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP), after subtracting inflation, would fall by an average of \$60 billion per year. ([Heritage Foundation, 11/7/07](#))

- **National Association of Manufacturers:** “We are extremely concerned about the **tax increases that will impact manufacturers of all sizes**. Based on our initial review, for many manufacturers, the proposed tax increases could well exceed the benefits of the proposed tax relief.” ([NAM VP Dorothy Coleman, 10/25/07](#))

3. MATH is a Job Killer. MATH would lead to the loss of more than one million jobs in 2013, with an average of 600,000 lost annually over the next 10 years. ([Heritage Foundation, 11/7/07](#))

- **Investor's Business Daily:** “Charles Rangel, chief of the House Ways and Means Committee, wants to pass the largest income-tax hike ever, to punish the rich. That the middle class and poor would lose millions of jobs goes unmentioned.” ([Investor's Business Daily, Editorial, 10/25/07](#))

4. MATH Pummels the Middle Class. Under the Democrat Congress' “Mother of All Tax Hikes,” the middle class takes a big hit: in 2011, of people with adjusted gross income (AGI) between \$20,000-\$200,000, more than 94 million would see a tax hike; only about 800,000 would see a tax cut. ([Nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation Analysis, 11/6/07](#))

5. MATH Would Put the Hammer to Small Businesses. Millions of Americans who own small businesses and who pay taxes on that income on their individual tax returns are going to face a triple-whammy. First, they will be hit with the 4% surtax on some of their income. Second, many of them will lose the Section 199 manufacturing deduction that lowers taxes on their business income. And third, this is happening at the same time as incorporated businesses get an across-the-board rate cut, making it even tougher for small businesses to compete. ([Ways and Means Republicans, 10/26/07](#))

- **National Review Online's Larry Kudlow:** “And he doesn't deal with the impact on small businesses. Small businesses add serious firepower to our economy. They are our biggest job creators. So going from 35 percent to 44 percent would be rather punitive. Another problem I have with this plan is the issue of competitiveness. Look, foreign countries are in fierce competition with us. **If we head in the wrong direction on taxes, we're going to risk serious movement of capital and investment away from the United States.**” ([NRO's the Corner, 10/25/07](#))

6. MATH Increases the Tax Burden on 90% of Americans. According to a just-released non-partisan analysis, 113,000,000 Americans will pay higher taxes under the House Democrats “Mother of All Tax Hikes.” ([Nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation Analysis, 11/6/07](#))

- **New York Sun:** “Call it Rangelism. His actions show that his bottom line is still increasing the government's tax take instead of making the tax system better and the government smaller.” ([The New York Sun, Editorial, 10/23/07](#))

7. MATH Rescinds the 2001 and 2003 Tax Cuts. Expiration of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts would reduce key family tax credits while re-imposing the marriage penalty on some taxpayers; the notorious Death Tax will return; the highest tax rate will rise from 35 percent to 39.6 percent; the tax rate on dividends would more than double from 15 percent to 35 percent. ([The Heritage Foundation, 11/7/07](#))

7A. Americans Would Pay More In Taxes Under MATH Than They Would If The Bush Tax Cuts Were Extended. “A sweeping Democratic tax reform plan would leave the vast majority of lower-income Americans paying more in taxes than if President George W. Bush's tax cuts were extended,” according to a report released by the nonpartisan Joint Committee. ([Dow Jones, 11/8/07](#))

- **Manhattan Institute's E.J. McMahon**: “The Rangel plan doesn't even deal with the biggest federal tax-policy challenge of all: the impending 2010 ‘sunset’ of **the Bush tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003. In fact, he literally banks on those cuts expiring** to make his plan balance under federal budgetary rules. As a result, in just four more years, the middle-class and the wealthy alike would be hit with massive tax hikes.” ([New York Post Op-Ed, 10/29/07](#))

8. MATH Would Vastly Expand The Size of Government. Under the Democrat plan, tax revenue rises to almost 21 percent of gross domestic product [GDP] by the end of the next decade, and would consume nearly one-fourth of our nation’s economic resources by the middle of the century. ([Budget Committee Republicans](#))

9. MATH Would Make The U.S. a Leader in High Taxes. The Democrats’ plan would have the effect of raising the top personal federal marginal income tax rate to more than 44%. The other 29 OECD countries – essentially other developed nations - have an average personal top marginal tax rate of 35.7%. In fact, only five OECD countries would have higher top marginal tax rates in 2011 than the U.S. if the Rangel bill is enacted. ([Ways and Means Republicans, 10/25/07](#))

10. The Federal Reserve Chairman Says MATH Would Hurt the U.S. Economy. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warns that a massive tax increase “would be a drag on the economy” and, as a result, “would probably not be advisable.” ([The Wall Street Journal, 11/8/07](#))

Sample Op-Ed: Government Spending

Americans have every right to know exactly how Washington is spending their hard-earned tax dollars. At the rate Washington Democrats are going, there's going to be plenty to keep tabs on.

With plenty of chits to be called in and favored projects to be funded, Democrats have put forward a slew of budget-busting spending bills that tallied together ask the taxpayer to accept \$22 billion in extra spending over what the President requested to fulfill national priorities, carry out the laws of the land, and make the trains run on time.

By just about every measure, this Democrat Congress has turned the annual spending process into yet another major area of concern for an American public that has already grown weary of Washington's inability to get things done.

With all the numbers being used and rhetoric going back and forth, I thought it would be best to answer some common questions I hear when I travel around my district:

Democrats say that \$22 billion represents less than 1 percent of the federal budget. What's the big deal then? Despite being described by Democrat leaders as "a very small difference," \$22 billion is by no means chump change – it represents more than the budgets of 34 states and the GDPs of all but 77 countries.

What's more, when factored into permanent government spending, this \$22 billion becomes \$204 billion by 2012. That's a nearly ten-fold increase based on just one year of spending.

It seems like the government is still up and running. What does it matter how or when Congress passes the spending bills? When the new fiscal year began on Oct. 1, not a single one of the dozen annual spending bills had been sent to the President's desk for his signature or veto. In fact, this remained the case up until the second week of November, the longest it has taken in twenty years for a Congress to fulfill its most basic of constitutional responsibilities.

The reasons for this lapse in competence were purely political. The bill that funds the Veterans Affairs Department was passed by both Houses with near-unanimous votes by just after Labor Day. This measure included the largest increase in funding for the VA in its 77-year history.

Our veterans and servicemembers have done their part for duty and country – they should never be made to wait for their due. Yet, Democrat leaders in Washington held the money back solely to score political points, adding insult to injury by tacking it onto another spending bill laden with wasteful pork, including over \$1 billion in earmarks. We have now passed Veterans Day without this funding boost getting to our bravest patriots.

What is the endgame for this stalemate? Democrat leaders are likely to take advantage of the nearing holiday season by trying to load all of this spending that they cannot get past fiscally responsible House Republicans and the President into one large bill known as an "omnibus." We're talking about upwards of hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars spent in one bill. That is not good government.

What would Democrats be trying to hide in one catch-all spending measure? Every taxpayer dollar should be spent with accountability and transparency, or not at all.

Contained in these spending bills are over 11,000 earmarks – federal spending directed to local projects. You've probably heard about the "Bridge to Nowhere," or the \$3 million for a golf center just recently slipped into a bill that funds for our troops and servicemembers by a senior Democrat leader. That figure pales in comparison to the whopping \$192.5 million Pennsylvania Democrat John Murtha is distributing in pork by way of this year's spending bills.

Those are earmarks, and more often than not, this money is spent in the dead of night, where there are ample opportunities for abuse and scarce due diligence.

FIGHTING FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

If not for the hard-fought efforts of House Republicans, these egregious earmarks would have become law virtually unbeknownst to the American people.

Nonetheless, even though these thousands of earmarks can now be subject to challenge on the House floor, that will not prevent Democrats from lashing them together wholesale to more worthwhile spending, as they did with the veterans bill before and will most likely do so again.

This is just another cynical ploy on the part of Democrat leaders to get wasteful government spending past the President's desk with government operations hanging in the balance.

What does this year's budget process have to do with the future? How we handle our responsibilities as elected stewards of the people's money says a lot about our national priorities and our commitment to tackling the challenges of the future.

We have done next to nothing in this year's spending process to make government live within its means, to make it more agile so that it can deal with the long-term fiscal challenges we face.

We are on the verge of being forced to confront an entitlement crisis hastened by the retirement of 77 million baby boomers and the resulting explosion in Social Security and Medicare spending. If we continue to pass the buck like this, we will have to either raise taxes every year by nearly \$12,000 per household or eliminate every other federal program to keep the promises we have made.

When families sat down at the beginning of this month to craft their budgets, they thought beyond the first of the next month to see what birthdays are coming up, whether they'll have to travel for the holidays, and how rising energy costs will affect them in other areas.

Congress should look at its fiscal responsibilities with the same wide lens, not tunnel vision. This debate is about much more than \$22 billion.

TALKING POINTS: Supporting Our Nation's Veterans

OUR PRINCIPLE: Standing between our veterans and the historic funding increase they were granted by both houses of Congress are Democrat leaders, who have proven once again their interest in scoring political points at any cost.

With Veterans Day having come and gone, our veterans still do not have the historic increase in veterans' funding they deserve. Both the House and Senate passed the Veterans Affairs spending bill in near-unanimous fashion because our commitment to veterans is strong enough to rise above partisan bickering. Washington Democrats, however, have chosen to hold the bill back to use it as a bargaining chip during their ongoing spending battle with the White House.

- **House vote:** 409-2 ([Vote 498, 6/15/07](#)); **Senate vote:** 92-1 ([Vote 316, 9/6/07](#)).
- **The New York Times:** “Democrats are **holding back on the major veterans bill** as they map their strategy in the appropriations battle.” ([The New York Times, 11/12/07](#))
- **Roll Call:** “The senior Senate Democratic aide said **the veterans measure ‘could be held back if there’s some help to get us to an end game’ with the president.** But the aide cautioned that “the process for that bill is still up in the air.” ([Roll Call, 11/8/07](#))
- **AP:** “The veterans bill has gotten caught up in a larger battle between the White House and Congress over Democratic efforts to add about \$23 billion for domestic programs... **Democrats had sought to combine the veterans spending measure with ones for education, health and job training programs to force passage of increases for the other programs.**” ([Associated Press, 11/11/07](#))

The veterans bill passed by the House and Senate in near-unanimous fashion contains the following funding provisions:

- \$4.1 billion to improve VA facilities, hospitals and clinics;
- \$2.9 billion for mental health care and substance abuse treatment for veterans; and
- \$480 million for prosthetic research to help wounded veterans retain a positive quality of life.
- **Strongly supports active-duty members:** The bill provides \$21.4 billion for facilities needed to house and train military personnel abroad and at home.

Republicans are proud of our strong record of commitment to our nation's veterans. Under Republican leadership, veterans health spending nearly doubled.

- **Overall Veterans Spending.** Under GOP leadership, the VA budget increased \$23.5 billion in 6 years – from \$48 billion in 2001 to approximately \$71.5 billion in 2006, a 49% increase. Republicans have also consistently protected the VA budget from across-the-board 1% deductions in discretionary spending.
- **Veterans' Healthcare Spending.** In our 12 years in the majority, House Republicans wrote budgets that boosted funding for veterans' medical care by nearly 90 percent.
- **Veterans' Education.** Under Republican leadership, GI Bill benefits have increased by 65 percent over the last six years, greatly enhancing higher education opportunities for our nation's veterans.
- **Veterans' Mental Health Care.** Responding to the needs of personnel returning from OIF and OEF missions, Congress appropriated nearly \$3 billion for mental health care in 2007, a 6.3 percent increase.

Sample Op-Ed: SCHIP

Whether it's the time spent in the waiting room, the piles of paperwork, or the flurry of critical decisions, there's no issue Americans are more personally invested in than health care.

Today, too many of our fellow citizens – nearly 47 million to be exact – live without basic health care coverage, nearly seven million of whom are children.

A decade ago, Republicans and Democrats joined together to create the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), an initiative designed to ensure that children of the working poor get access to the quality, affordable health care they need and deserve.

Now, the program has come due for reauthorization, and while it's working well, it could be working even better.

Unfortunately, SCHIP has become the latest political football to be thrown around by Washington politicians in a transparent attempt to score political points.

In SCHIP, Democrats in Washington see an opportunity to bureaucratize health care, but in their rush to do so, they risk crippling our health care system and burdening taxpayers with another costly permanent entitlement program.

We can make SCHIP better serve its original purpose if we stick to these four principles:

1. Poor children should be covered first before we consider extending coverage to wealthier families.

We should re-focus SCHIP on its original intention: to ensure that children of the working poor get access to the quality, affordable health care they need and deserve. This means families at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level – approximately \$40,000 for a family of four in 2007.

There's been talk about extending the program beyond this income range, but right now, more than 6 in 10 uninsured children who qualify for Medicaid or SCHIP are not enrolled. It only makes sense then that we focus our efforts on serving the needs of these children before stretching the program's mission.

What's more, a Gallup poll released last month showed that a majority of Americans agree with this position.

2. Poor children should be covered first before we consider extending coverage to adults under a taxpayer-funded health plan meant to help lower-income children.

Today, there are roughly 700,000 adults currently enrolled in the State *Children's* Health Insurance Program – even with all the children that have yet to be enrolled. In the year ahead, 14 states will spend one-third of their total SCHIP funding on adults. Again, the original intent of this program was to serve the needs of low-income children.

3. Lower-income children with private health insurance should not be “crowded out” of the coverage they already have and transitioned to taxpayer-funded plans.

It would be disastrous if in our rush to cover more kids, we weakened access to private coverage for all Americans. Congress' official budget scorekeeper, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, estimates that the proposal being put forward by Democrats in Washington would move two million children off of private insurance they already have and onto the government dole.

4. Illegal immigrants should not receive taxpayer-funded health care benefits.

The way our laws are written, even when you say something can't happen it still can find a loophole through which it may happen.

In the SCHIP expansion legislation considered by the Congress, states are allowed to verify citizenship through the presentation of a Social Security Number – identification that is easily falsified or stolen.

The independent, nonpartisan Congressional Research Service and the Social Security Administration say that supplying a Social Security number, even a valid one, does not prove citizenship, and the Social Security Administration says it cannot verify if an SCHIP applicant is a citizen.

This has been a colossal missed opportunity for the Congress to enact meaningful health care reforms.

Yes, Democrats are thinking big right now, but not the way Americans want. SCHIP should not be used as a delivery device for government-run health care. We should be dedicating our efforts to implementing comprehensive market-based reforms that expand access to private coverage while shoring up this critical program.

Our health care system has real problems that deserve sensible, bipartisan solutions. That should be the endgame for this debate. Instead of putting our kids in the middle, we should put them first.

Democrats to America’s Uninsured Children: Grow Up

530,000 SCHIP-Eligible Kids Are Uninsured, While 700,000 Adults Get SCHIP Benefits

The Democrat Solution? Expand SCHIP to More Adults, More Middle-Class Families, More Illegal Aliens

State	Number of Children Enrolled in SCHIP, FY2006	Number of Adults Enrolled in SCHIP, FY2006	Percentage of SCHIP Enrollees Who Are Adults
Arizona	96,669	109,738	53%
Illinois	316,781	211,114	40%
Michigan	118,501	101,919	46%
Minnesota	5,243	34,313	87%
New Jersey	142,805	88,606	38%
New Mexico	25,155	5,787	19%
Oregon	59,039	13,750	19%
Rhode Island	25,492	21,125	45%
Wisconsin	56,627	110,298	66%

Total Adults Covered by SCHIP Nationwide in FY2006: 700,596

(Source: Congressional Research Service, Aug. 20, 2007)

SIDE-BY-SIDE: Democrat SCHIP Legislation

	H.R. 3162 <i>Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007</i>	H.R. 976 <i>Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007</i>	H.R. 3963 <i>Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007</i>
Status	Passed by the House, 8/1/07 .	Passed by the House, 9/25/07 . Passed by the Senate, 9/27/07 . Vetoed by the President, 10/3/07 . Veto Sustained in the House, 10/18/07 .	Passed by the House, 10/25/07 . Passed by the Senate, 11/1/07 .
Cost	\$47.4 billion in expansion over five years.	\$34.7 billion in expansion over five years.	\$35.4 billion in expansion over five years.
Enrollment	CBO projects that SCHIP enrollment will reach 7.3 million children and adults in FY2012.	CBO projects that SCHIP enrollment will reach 7.8 million children and adults in FY2012.	CBO projects that SCHIP enrollment will reach 7.4 million children and adults in FY2012.
Revenue Sources	Increase in excise tax rate by 45 cents to \$.84 per pack of cigarettes. \$157 billion in Medicare cuts , causing 3.2 million seniors to lose their Medicare advantage coverage .	Increase in excise tax by 61 cents to \$1.00 per pack of cigarettes.	Increase in excise tax by 61 cents to \$1.00 per pack of cigarettes.
Republican Principle Fulfilled: Poor children should be covered first, not wealthier families, including those earning 300 percent of the federal poverty level or more.	NO. The nonpartisan Urban Institute estimates that more than 530,000 children already in families currently eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP (earning 200 percent of the federal poverty level or less) are not enrolled. In another study, the Urban Institute said " more than six in 10 uninsured children qualify for Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) but are not enrolled."	NO. The Democrats' vetoed SCHIP bill, in the words of New York's Democrat Governor Eliot Spitzer, " rolled back the new rules " and policy announced by the Administration in August that poor children must be covered first before wealthier kids or adults. The vetoed SCHIP failed to close a loophole that allows states to artificially "disregard" large portions of the income of wealthier families in order to make them seem low-income.	NO. Rep. Dingell (D-MI), admitted during debate on the House floor that states could still allow people making well over \$100,000 to enroll on SCHIP. Like the first bill, the new version of the Democrats' SCHIP bill fails to actually close a loophole that allows states to artificially "disregard" large portions of the income of wealthier families in order to make them seem low-income. Not only does the new version of the Democrats' SCHIP not cover poor kids first, it covers fewer kids in general . CBO estimates that 400,000 fewer individuals will be covered under the new version of the bill compared to the old one – (7.4 million vs. 7.8 million in 2012) – this despite the fact that it will cost more money.

SIDE-BY-SIDE: Democrat SCHIP Legislation

	H.R. 3162 <i>Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007</i>	H.R. 976 Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007	H.R. 3963 <i>Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007</i>
<p>Republican Principle Fulfilled:</p> <p>Poor children should be covered under SCHIP first before we consider extending coverage to adults under a taxpayer-funded health plan meant to help lower-income children.</p>	<p>NO.</p> <p>According to the independent Congressional Research Service, approximately 700,000 adults are currently enrolled in SCHIP. According to CMS, Minnesota will spend 78% of its total SCHIP funds on parents. New Jersey, 55%. Illinois, 51%.</p> <p>The measure gives states the option to extend SCHIP coverage to children who would otherwise be "aged out" of the program when they are too old to qualify. These individuals could be covered through SCHIP until they are 21.</p>	<p>NO.</p> <p>Although H.R. 976 provides for a transition of childless adults from SCHIP to Medicaid over the next two years, the bill allows hundreds of thousands of adult parents to remain on the State Children's Health Insurance Program throughout the length of the reauthorization period.</p>	<p>NO.</p> <p>While childless adults are transitioned out of SCHIP over time, adults with children are allowed to remain on SCHIP. [Sec. 2111]</p> <p>The official CBO cost estimate for H.R. 3963 projects that even in fiscal year 2012 up to 10% of the enrollees in SCHIP will be adults under the policies of this bill.</p>
<p>Republican Principle Fulfilled:</p> <p>Illegal immigrants should not receive taxpayer-funded SCHIP benefits, and a reauthorization of the program should not water-down citizenship documentation requirements or make it easier for illegal aliens to sign-up for benefits.</p>	<p>NO.</p> <p>The legislation repeals the requirement from the Deficit Reduction Act that states verify an individual's citizenship and identity before enrolling them in Medicaid.</p> <p>It would now be a state option to verify citizenship and identity even though the federal taxpayer pays a majority of the cost of the program.</p>	<p>NO.</p> <p>Sec. 211 of the Democrats' vetoed SCHIP bill substantially weakens these citizenship and identity documentation requirements for Medicaid and SCHIP by allowing states to verify citizenship through the presentation of an easily falsified or stolen Social Security number.</p> <p>The independent, nonpartisan Congressional Research Service and the Social Security Administration say that supplying a Social Security number, even a valid one, does not prove citizenship, and the Social Security Administration says it cannot verify if an SCHIP applicant is a citizen.</p>	<p>NO.</p> <p>The Congressional Budget Office, Congress's official budget scorekeeper, estimated that Sec. 211 of the first version of H.R. 976 vetoed by the President would cost the federal taxpayer \$3.7 billion over 10 years. Despite Democrat claims to have definitively prohibited illegal immigrants from receiving SCHIP benefits, the CBO cost estimate of Sec. 211 in the new version of the bill has not changed. (CBO letter to Chairman Dingell, 10/24/07)</p>
<p>Republican Principle Fulfilled:</p> <p>Lower-income children with private health insurance should not be "crowded out" of the coverage they already have and transitioned to taxpayer-funded plans.</p>	<p>NO.</p> <p>The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that the policies in H.R. 3162 will cause almost 2 million children who currently have private health insurance coverage to lose this coverage.</p>	<p>NO.</p> <p>The Congressional Budget Office, Congress's official budget scorekeeper, estimated that the Democrats' vetoed SCHIP bill vetoed by the President will move 2 million children off of private insurance they already have and onto taxpayer-funded, government-run healthcare plans. The Washington Post said at the time "this 'crowd-out' risk is real and inevitable ..."</p>	<p>NO.</p> <p>While the supporters of H.R. 3963 claim that they addressed Republican concerns about substituting private health insurance coverage with government-run plans, CBO projects that this bill will still crowd-out 2.0 million people from their current private health insurance plan. By failing to address Republican concerns, this number still has not changed. (CBO letter to Chairman Dingell, 10/24/07)</p>

Democrats Spread the Holiday Cheer With Higher Gas Prices

316 Days into the Democrat-led Congress and still no action to address rising energy prices. While Democrats squabble over legislation that will do NOTHING to improve America's energy production, American families are paying the price.

Gas Prices Made, Gas Promises Broken	
More than a year ago, <u>Speaker Pelosi</u> said: "Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices..." (Release, 4/24/06)	Average Price Regular Unleaded: \$3.11 -- up 81 cents since Democrats took office. (<u>AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report, 11/14/07</u>) "U.S. consumers could pay record gasoline prices for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday with pump costs expected to <u>climb another 20 cents</u> over the next two to three weeks, the government's top energy forecaster warned on Monday." (Reuters, 11/13/07)
Energy Independence	
<u>Speaker Pelosi (D-CA)</u> : "We'll make this Fourth of July energy independence day..." (Press Conference, 5/9/2007)	"The average U.S. household will pay \$986 in heating costs this winter, up 10.9% from the 2006-07 season and \$9 higher than the original forecast made a month ago, according to the Energy Information Administration, the analytical arm of the Energy Department." (USA Today, 11/6/2007)
Dem Energy Bill: Disappeared?	
Democrat Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD): "By acting now to make America energy independent, we have the opportunity to leave future generations a lasting legacy that makes our nation and our world a better place." (<u>Press Release, 1/18/07</u>)	11 Months Later : "Where's That Energy Bill?... the bills disappeared into the back rooms as Democratic leaders tried to negotiate a final product." (New York Times Editorial, 11/14/2007)
Democrat New Direction: Just Rhetoric	
Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD): "This is a time to change direction, to set a new course on energy policy, to say to the country: We're not just talking rhetoric. We mean what we say." (Floor Speech, 1/18/07)	"Time is running out for lawmakers struggling to reach a House-Senate deal on a major energy bill by Thanksgiving... House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she is still 'hoping against hope'... however... 'I don't know if it's possible...'" (CQ, 11/13/2007)
Addressing Home Heating Costs: Maybe Later	
"Now American families are facing a long winter of high home heating bills with no end in sight. Mr. Speaker, Democrats strongly believe that this body should not adjourn until action is taken to address the energy concerns of all Americans." (Rep. Langevin (D-RI), House Floor Speech, 9/27/2006)	" Winter Heating Crisis Looms " (Wall Street Journal Headline, 11/5/2007) "For heating oil customers, a bad situation got even worse.... Heating oil bills are expected to be more than double those seen four years ago." (USA Today, 11/6/2007)
Democrats Faux Agenda	
"There are a few real things that we could deal with that the American people are concerned about. Maybe high gas prices. No, those things are not on the agenda. We have the faux agenda for Congress, which is designed purely for either entertainment purposes or for political purposes." (Rep. Defazio (D-OR), House Floor Speech, 7/16/2006)	"What in God's name is wrong with congressional Dems?... voters are going to start wondering if you simply don't have what it takes to govern..." (<u>The New Republic Editorial, 11/5/07</u>) "Gas prices hit working class: Study says <u>lower income people effectively pay 8 times more to fill up</u> ; broader economy could feel sting." (<u>CNN Headline, 11/14/2007</u>)

National Security

By the Numbers: Progress in Iraq

The U.S. military strategy has inflicted devastating blows to Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Violence has declined significantly and reconstruction efforts are moving forward.

70%

The percent decrease in violence in Iraq since the end of June. (Reuters, 10/22/2007)

5

Consecutive months that U.S. combat deaths have declined. (USA Today, 10/31/2007)

36

Number of U.S. combat deaths in October 2007, reaching the lowest point since March 2006. (LA Times, 11/01/2007)

50%

Percent reduction in suicide bombings in Iraq since the beginning of the year. (Christian Science Monitor, 10/26/2007)

60%

Percent decrease in IED attacks in the past four months, which are at the lowest levels since January 2006. (Adm. Greg Smith, Press Briefing, 10/28/07)

8

Number of Iraqi provinces (out of 18) transferred to the control of Iraqi forces. The latest province to be handed over, Karbala, previously bore witness to some of the worst sectarian violence in post-Saddam Iraq. (Bloomberg, 10/29/2007)

20

Number of major tribes (out of 25) in the Diyala province that have joined U.S. and Iraqi forces in the fight against terrorists and insurgents in Iraq. (Christian Science Monitor, 10/26/2007)

67,000

Number of Iraqis who have signed up as Concerned Local Citizens to help Coalition Forces and the Iraqi Government bring security to Iraqi neighborhoods. (Adm. Smith, Press Briefing, 10/28/07)

21

Rocket and mortar attacks in Iraq have fallen to their lowest point in 21 months. (USA Today, 11/13/2007)

81%

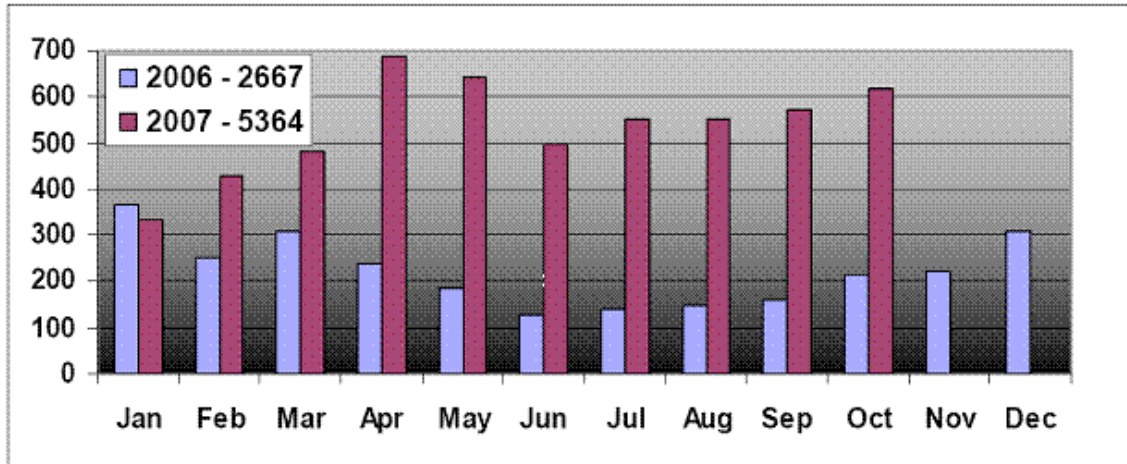
Percent reduction in car bomb deaths in Iraq over the past five months. (Weekly Standard, 10/29/07)

5,364

Number of explosives and weapons caches found by coalition and Iraqi forces thus far this year, which is twice as many as found in all of 2006. (USA Today, 11/13/2007)

Weapons Cache Seizures Month to Month Comparison

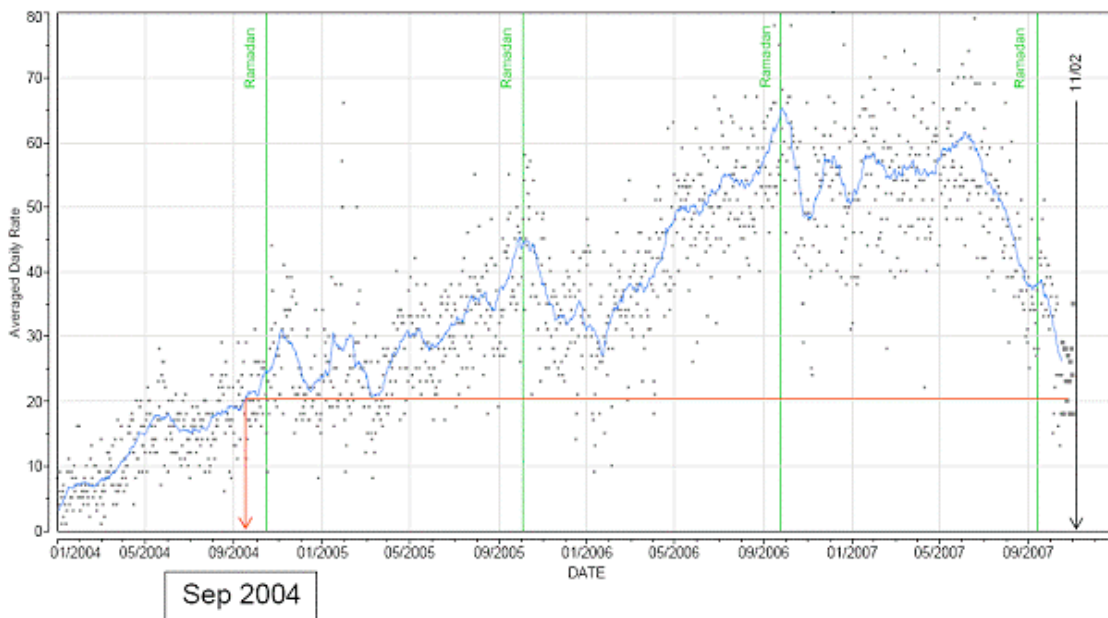
Jan 2006 through Oct 2007



(Courtesy of Multi-National Forces – Iraq)

IEDs Explosions – All Iraq

1 January 2004 – 2 November 2007



(Courtesy of Multi-National Forces – Iraq)

FISA TALKING POINTS: Closing The Terrorist Loophole, Permanently and Securely

OUR PRINCIPLES: Agility, speed, and focus are vital in any successful intelligence effort. Republicans will continue to lead the way and fight to ensure our laws reflect the need for these critical tools while protecting the civil liberties of the American people.

The pressing need for permanent FISA overhaul was made plain by a tragic case in which a rescue mission for U.S. soldiers kidnapped by al-Qaeda operatives was thwarted by the cumbersome legal requirements of our intelligence collection laws. It took hours for intelligence officials to determine whether the legal requirements of FISA were met before they could conduct surveillance to assist in the rescue mission.

- **USA Today:** “The men — Spc. Alex Jimenez, Pfc. Byron Fouty and Pfc. Joseph Anzack — were part of a group patrolling a road south of Baghdad on May 12 when they came under attack. Four other soldiers were killed, and the men were taken prisoner. House searches turned up papers that suggested that the attackers were al-Qaeda members. At least one phone number that authorities thought germane was also discovered.” ([USA Today, 9/23/07](#))
- **New York Post:** “A search to rescue the men was quickly launched. But it soon ground to a halt as lawyers – obeying strict U.S. laws about surveillance – cobbled together the legal grounds for wiretapping the suspected kidnappers... For an excruciating nine hours and 38 minutes, searchers in Iraq waited as U.S. lawyers discussed legal issues and hammered out the ‘probable cause’ necessary for the attorney general to grant such ‘emergency’ permission.” ([New York Post, 10/15/07](#))
- **The Washington Times:** “Army Lt. Gen. Keith B. Alexander, told the House intelligence panel in a partly classified May 23 briefing that getting permission under the existing-in-May law delayed surveillance in the case of the 10th Mountain Division soldiers for 9½ hours, said a government official familiar with the emergency classified briefing. ‘Soldiers’ lives were literally on the line while lawyers scrambled around Washington looking for permission,’ said the official, who has ties to the intelligence community and discussed unclassified portions of the briefing.” ([The Washington Times, 10/15/07](#))

Republicans successfully fought for passage of the Protect America Act, which gave our intelligence community the tools and flexibility needed to deal with the threats we face. For over [five months now](#), House Republicans have led the way in fighting to update and enhance our foreign intelligence surveillance laws. These efforts resulted in passage of the [Protect America Act](#), a law that closed the dangerous loophole in our national defense that allowed foreign terrorists to avoid our intelligence network. In fact, the Protect America Act specifically states that a court order is **not** required for foreign targets overseas.

- The Director of National Intelligence testified before the House Judiciary Committee that prior to the Protect America Act, the intelligence community was not collecting approximately 66 percent of the foreign intelligence information that it used to collect before recent legal interpretations required the government to obtain FISA court orders for foreign surveillance.

The House Democrat FISA bill irresponsibly restores the terrorist loophole. The House Democrat FISA bill is a temporary measure that rolls back Republican reforms, restores the terrorist loophole, and constrains the ability of our intelligence officials to combat the efforts of our enemies. It does so by putting in place an unprecedented regime of burdensome legal requirements that risk hindering the collection of foreign intelligence information from foreign intelligence targets and requiring a court order for every foreign communication entering the United States.

- **Reopening the terrorist loophole:** The Democrat FISA bill creates a process by which a court order is required for U.S. persons who are outside the United States. If a foreign target operating overseas – for instance, Osama bin Laden

– has either had contact with a U.S. person or called a U.S. number, our intelligence officials would be required to obtain a FISA court order to listen in on their communications.

- **Heritage Foundation analysis:** “Each FISA application requires approximately 200 person-hours of government attorneys’ and other intelligence officials’ time for each telephone number intercepted. ... Thousands of persons outside of the United States are being monitored for terrorism-related activities. For every thousand, 100 government officials would have to spend a year working fulltime to prepare all of the FISA applications.” ([Heritage Foundation, 10/16/07](#))

The House Democrat FISA bill punishes companies that have done their patriotic duty by assisting the government in protecting the American people, just as any other American would if asked to help. Absent from this measure are legal protections that would allow telecommunications providers to assist law enforcement without having to worry about a flurry of lawsuits being filed against them. In an editorial, *The Washington Post* held that “...the telecommunications providers seem to us to have been acting as patriotic corporate citizens in a difficult and uncharted environment.” ([Editorial, 10/14/07](#))



Holding Washington Accountable



Sample Op-Ed: Earmark Reform

Too often, ambitious efforts to reform government run off the rails when change for its own sake comes to be regarded as better than no change at all.

That is exactly where we find ourselves in the ongoing discussion over the pressing need to bring real transparency and accountability to the way in which lawmakers direct federal dollars to local projects – a process known in short as earmarking.

No objective observer could deny the prominent role earmarks played in the ethical improprieties and fiscal irresponsibility that turned Republicans out of office in large numbers in 2006.

It is difficult, however, to have an open and honest discussion of the virtue of earmarks without knowing everything there is to know about them. More often than not, this money is spent in the dead of night – leaving ample opportunity for abuse and few allowances for scrutiny.

We don't have any kind of fool-proof system in place to do real-time tracking of the particulars of this spending – even this deep into the Internet age, no central website with an easy-to-read database.

There's an awful lot to sift through – this year, the spending bills passed by the Democrat House and Senate contain over 11,000 earmarks.

Elected on a platform of change, Washington Democrats vowed to make dramatic efforts to deal with earmarking – of course, they said that about a lot of things – but instead what they have left us with is a series of swiss cheese reforms, where token gestures that provide good fodder for press releases are deemed sufficient.

There have been suggestions that Democrats have done this purposefully, to conceal the most unseemly of their earmarks, but that is impossible to know until we have real earmark reform and let in the sunshine.

Republicans took up this fight three months ago and were successful in forcing Democrats in the House to agree to allow earmarks to be challenged if they are included in any of the dozen annual spending bills.

That still leaves, however, a giant loophole through which earmarks can be slipped into other types of bills – those that cover our tax laws and authorize new programs. It was in this latter type of legislation that the infamous \$220-million “Bridge to Nowhere” originated.

Republicans have proposed closing this loophole, and making it so that any earmark, no matter how big or small, no matter what type of bill it's slipped into, can be debated and challenged by an elected representative of the people.

Democrats, however, will not allow the bill to come to the floor, so House Republicans have filed a petition to force their hand. If 218 members sign it, Democrats will be forced under the rules to give the Republican proposal a vote on the House floor. While we have gotten just about every Republican's signature, not a single House Democrat has signed this petition.

With this renewed push for real earmark reform, House Republicans have set a benchmark by which future reform efforts can be judged. While we wait to discover whether the playing field will allow for more ambitious reforms, we should at least have complete transparency.

From our perspective, this is as good a good government measure as has been proposed in this Congress – it empowers lawmakers to take more ownership of their constituents' stake in these projects while simultaneously forcing us to exercise tighter fists over taxpayer dollars.

Turkey Day Special: GOP Reforms Would Bring Sunshine to Dems' Gravy Train

In stark contrast to the growing list of Democrat earmark abuses, [197 Republicans](#) have signed a discharge petition to bring a bill to the floor that would require ALL earmarks in ALL bills to be publicly disclosed and subject to challenge and debate.

DEMOCRAT EARMARKING 101

Murtha Inc. Exposed

The Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post have both run front page stories in recent weeks about Rep. John Murtha's (D-PA) earmark factory. According to the Journal, "many [earmarks] weren't sought by the military or federal agencies they were intended to benefit. Some were inefficient or mismanaged ... One Murtha-backed firm, ProLogic Inc., is under federal investigation..." The Post credits the rise of Concurrent Technologies to the largesse of Congressman Murtha, "who helped arrange funding to launch the organization in 1988. Murtha has since arranged millions of dollars more in directed congressional appropriations called earmarks. Now Concurrent has nearly \$250 million in annual revenue and 1,500 employees." ([Wall Street Journal, 10/30/07](#); [The Washington Post, 11/2/07](#))

CADDYSHACK EARMARK

House Democrat Whip James Clyburn's (D-SC) \$3 million golf center earmark

"House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.) inserted a \$3 million earmark into the Defense spending package during conference proceedings that will go to a charitable foundation connected to the James E. Clyburn Golf Center in Columbia, S.C. ... City officials in Columbia renamed their golf center after Clyburn during an Aug. 6 ceremony." ([The Hill, 11/08/2007](#))

A MONUMENT TO ME

Rep. Charles Rangel's (D-NY) earmark for the "magnificent" Rangel Center

"Is Rangel's 'Monument to Me' Worth It?" ([CBS News, 9/14/07](#)) "New York's Charlie Rangel provided smirks this week when news emerged that the Harlem Congressman was humbly seeking a \$2 million earmark to celebrate the 'Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service' at the City College of New York. Titters turned to dropped jaws yesterday when a 20-page glossy brochure popped up, describing the yet-to-be-created center. That flyer, which asks for donations, explains that organizers need a mere \$4.7 million to restore a 'magnificent Harlem limestone townhouse' ... one dollop would go to 'a well-furnished office for Congressman Rangel' and another dollop would fund 'the Rangel Library'..." ([OpinionJournal, 7/20/07](#))

THE EARMARK FLOOD IS COMING

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) rebuilds pricy "Noah's Ark" with taxpayer's money

"With decaying bridges and crumbling highways sorely underfunded, Congress somehow found the money in last year's transportation budget to help build a boat that won't take you anywhere ... The ark is actually a children's play park ... [Rep. Henry] Waxman replied by giving the ark money through a special earmark in, of all things, the transportation budget ... Noah's Ark has been bringing in \$16,000 in ticket sales per week since it opened last June. And no, taxpayers don't get a cut." ([CBS News, 9/20/07](#))

NO PORK HERE, HONEST!

Democrats secretly earmark hundreds of millions in "hospital pork"

"Despite promises by Congress to end the secrecy of earmarks and other pet projects, the House of Representatives has quietly funneled hundreds of millions of dollars to specific hospitals and health care providers ... Instead of naming the hospitals, the bill describes them in cryptic terms, so that identifying a beneficiary is like solving a riddle. Most of the provisions were added to the bill at the request of Democratic lawmakers ... Some Republicans have complained about what they call 'hospital pork' ..." ([NY Times, 8/12/07](#))

INTELLIGENT EARMARKING

Democrat Intelligence Chair teams up with Murtha Inc. and its "powerhouse" lobbyists

“A new political action committee [BEST PAC] created by the brother of [House Intelligence Committee Chair] Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-Texas) raised \$50,000 this spring almost entirely from staff and clients of powerhouse lobbying shop PMA Group, and within weeks, those same donors reaped millions of dollars in earmarks from Reyes and other Members of Congress closely affiliated with PMA ... Most of the donations were made on May 7, four days before the Intelligence panel approved the 2008 intelligence authorization bill, which included earmarks for several donors to the PAC ... Many of the donors to BEST PAC also are long-time supporters of Reps. John Murtha (D-Pa.), Alan Mollohan (D-W.Va.) and Peter Visclosky (D-Ind.)” ([Roll Call, 10/1/07](#))

QUITE A STRETCH

Rep. Pete Visclosky’s (D-IN) \$2 million “yoga” earmark

“The House of Representatives' defense-spending bill has money to pay troops, buy fighter jets and an aircraft carrier -- and fund a nonprofit group researching yoga, 'bioenergy' and alternative medicines. The \$2 million earmarked for the Samueli Institute for Information Biology, started by Broadcom Corp. Chairman Henry Samueli and his wife Susan, was inserted into the measure by Democratic Representative Peter Visclosky. The Samueli family has contributed thousands of campaign dollars to Visclosky ... Federal records show the Samueli family began contributing to Visclosky's campaigns in 2005, and are now among his largest donors. The \$44,800 they gave is more than they donated to any other member of Congress over the last three years.” ([Bloomberg, 9/19/07](#))

FLYING THE FRIENDLY SKIES

Democrat Chairman David Obey’s earmark for high-flying Wisconsin CEOs

“Rice Lake regional airport ... \$2 million in federal funds without debate. Back at Rice Lake, Wisconsin, we sat at the end of the runway and waited – four hours. In all that time, we counted one corporate jet, one twin engine plane and five single engine planes. A total of seven aircraft in four hours. On a good day, we're told, 34 planes in an hour. But no commercial flights. But this airport is vital for corporate executives. They like to visit Rice Lake’s manufacturing plants but apparently don't like to spend the night ... which U.S. congressman decided extending the runway for a few corporate jets was worth your money? Wisconsin Democrat David Obey – the very same person now in charge of appropriations and earmarks.” ([CNN, 5/25/07](#))

THE BOONDOGGLE TO END ALL BOONDOGGLES

Murtha’s earmarks a “\$39 million taxpayer gift” for a “boondoggle” pet project

U.S. News & World Report criticized the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) as a “[drug war boondoggle](#).” John Carnevale, a former official with the Office of National Drug Control Policy, said “none of us wanted it in Johnstown. We viewed it as a jobs program Murtha wanted [for his district].” CNN labeled it a “[\\$39 million taxpayer gift to Johnstown](#),” and the *Washington Examiner* noted that “the House Government Reform Committee called NDIC ‘an [expensive and duplicative use of scarce federal drug enforcement resources](#).’”

STUDENT BECOMES THE TEACHER

Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA), “following in Murtha's footsteps,” earmarks tax dollars for the “Doyle Center”

“Rep. Mike Doyle, a Forest Hills Democrat and staunch Murtha ally, is an eager apprentice. One major achievement is the Doyle Center for Manufacturing Technology, based in South Oakland. In 2003, Mr. Doyle helped launch the center with a \$1.5 million grant from the Air Force ... Mr. Doyle's close relationship with Mr. Murtha, head of the powerful House Defense Appropriations subcommittee, is apparent in the center's inner workings. Its board chairman is Edward J. Sheehan Jr., chief financial officer of Concurrent Technologies Corp., a technology consulting organization that grew from Murtha earmarks in the 1980s.” ([Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 7/15/07](#))

MYTH vs. FACT: The Fairness Doctrine

Courtesy of Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN) and Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR)

Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN) and Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) introduced the bipartisan *Broadcaster Freedom Act* (H.R. 2095) to prohibit the FCC from reinstating the Fairness Doctrine. The so-called Fairness Doctrine is a regulation from the 1940s that required broadcasters to present contrasting viewpoints on controversial issues to avoid revocation of their broadcasting license. Stonewalled by the House Democrat Leadership's refusal to schedule a vote on the measure, Rep. Pence filed a discharge petition to force a vote on the bill, which must first be signed by 218 Members.

1. **MYTH:** The Fairness Doctrine is needed in order for talk radio listeners to hear both sides of a controversial issue.

- ✓ **FACT:** When the Fairness Doctrine was in place, broadcasters actually minimized programming that could be considered controversial to avoid the substantial dangers associated with the Fairness Doctrine such as government sanction and administrative and legal expenses.

2. **MYTH:** The Fairness Doctrine is needed due to consolidated ownership of media outlets.

- ✓ **FACT:** The Fairness Doctrine is a holdover from the days of scarce media outlets. When the FCC issued the Fairness Doctrine in the 1940s, it justified the regulation on the grounds that there were only a scarce number of broadcast stations across the country. Today there are over 14,000 broadcast radio stations, numerous satellite radio stations and internet radio streams, over 10 million blogs, internet video websites like YouTube, and podcasts. The scarcity justification that once was used to validate the need for the Fairness Doctrine does not hold true in today's 24-hour news environment.

3. **MYTH:** The Fairness Doctrine only applies to political talk radio programs hosted by radio personalities, such as Rush Limbaugh and Al Franken.

- ✓ **FACT:** The FCC applied the Fairness Doctrine to discussion of "controversial issues of public importance." Since the FCC's guidance on the Fairness Doctrine lacked clarity, the breadth of what could be considered a controversial issue today is significant. Therefore, religious broadcasters could very well be prevented from presenting their views over the airwaves without federal interference. In America's increasingly polarized society, traditional religious and ethical principles are considered as controversial as ever. If the Fairness Doctrine is reinstated, complaints could be filed with the FCC against religious broadcasters that examined conventional Christian and Jewish teachings relating to sexuality, marriage, parental responsibility and the sanctity of human life by those with differing beliefs.

4. **MYTH:** The FCC has repealed the Fairness Doctrine, so there is not a need for HR 2905, the Broadcaster Freedom Act.

- ✓ **FACT:** The FCC could reinstate the Fairness Doctrine at any time through a rule making. A future presidential administration could direct the FCC to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Only an act of Congress can protect the free speech rights of broadcasters.

5. **MYTH:** Only conservative talk radio hosts and broadcasters think the Fairness Doctrine is troublesome.

- ✓ **FACT:** In a 2003 interview on PBS's *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, well-known liberal talk show host, Alan Colmes, said: "*Modern day talk radio would not thrive if there were a Fairness Doctrine and the bureaucratic nightmare that's involved in the kind of paperwork you need to do that. The free market should be the arbiter of what flies on talk radio. ... That's where I want to make it, and not because I have government help to do so.*"



Appendix



Immigration Votes Taken in the 110th Congress

Employee Union Card Check (H.R. 800): Republican Motion to Recommit would have required certification that an employee was a legal resident or citizen prior to returning a card. (Failed by a vote of 202 to 225; [Vote #118](#))

Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007 (H.R. 1427): Rep. Price (R-GA) amendment requires adults to prove their legal residency through secure forms of identification in order to be eligible for housing from the affordable housing fund. (Passed by a vote of 235 to 188, [Vote #117](#))

Alien Smuggling and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007 (H.R. 2399): The bill increases penalties for alien smuggling. (Passed by a vote of 412 to 0, [Vote #400](#))

FY2008 Homeland Security Appropriations (H.R. 2638):

- **Rep. Drake (R-VA) amendment** increases funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement by \$9 million. (Passed by a vote of 286 to 187, [Vote #469](#))
- **Rep. McHenry (R-NC) amendment** would have increased funding for Citizenship and Immigration Services by \$30 million. (Failed by a vote of 207 to 214, [Vote #474](#))
- **Rep. Carter (R-TX) amendment** would have removed several border security fencing. (Failed by a vote of 190 to 233, [Vote #476](#))
- **Rep. McCaul (R-TX) amendment** would have removed a provision that prevents the procurement of unmanned aerial vehicles for use by Customs and Border Protection. (Failed by a vote of 192 to 232, [Vote #477](#))
- **Rep. King (R-IA) amendment** promotes the use of the Employment Eligibility Verification Basic Pilot program. (Passed by a vote of 228 to 195, [Vote #478](#))
- **Rep. Tancredo (R-CO) amendment** would have prohibited funds from being used to implement the visa waiver program. (Failed by a vote of 76 to 347, [Vote #484](#))
- **Rep. Tancredo (R-CO) amendment** prohibits funds from being used to assist state or local governments that refuse to share citizenship and immigration status of individual's with ICE. (Passed by a vote of 234 to 189, [Vote #485](#))
- **Rep. Royce (R-CA) amendment** would have required funding to be used for two layers of reinforced fencing and roads for a border fence along the U.S. – Mexican border. (Failed by a vote of 149 to 272, [Vote #486](#))
- **Republican Motion to Recommit** would have provided funds necessary for the construction of a two layered fence , barriers and technology along the U.S.–Mexican barrier. (Failed by a vote of 200 to 217, [Vote #490](#))

The Section 8 Voucher Reform Act of 2007 (H.R. 1851): Republican Motion to Recommit requires appropriate identification to determine legal status prior to receiving rental assistance. (Passed by a vote of 333 to 93, [Vote #629](#))

FY 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations (H.R. 3093):

- **Rep. Lofgren (D-CA) amendment** increases State Criminal Alien Assistance Program funding by \$55 million. (Passed by a vote of 388 to 39, [Vote #725](#))
- **Rep. Stearns (R-FL) amendment** would have Prohibited funds from being used by the EEOC to litigate against employers that require employees to speak English. (Failed by a vote of 202 to 212, [Vote #734](#))

- **Republican Motion to Instruct Conferees** prevents the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from using funds to initiate civil action against an organization which requires its employees to speak English at work. (Passed by a vote of 218 to 186, [Vote #1076](#))

Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007 (H.R. 3162): Republican Motion to Recommit would have restored current law requirements for immigrants---requiring citizenship documentation verification for eligibility; and restores the 5 year waiting period for certain legal immigrants to participate in welfare programs. (Failed by a vote of 202 to 226, [Vote #786](#))

FY 2008 Agriculture Appropriations (H.R. 3161): Republican Motion to Recommit would have prohibited funds from being used to employ illegal immigrants or to provide rental assistance to illegal immigrants. (Failed by a vote of 212 to 216, [Vote #814](#))

Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007 (H.R. 1852): Republican Motion to Recommit would have required an individual, or all adult members of a household, to provide valid personal identification--such as a social security card, driver's license, passport, or photo identification card issued by the Department of Homeland Security--to confirm the eligibility of the individual/household to receive assistance through the newly created affordable housing fund. (Failed by a vote of 209 to 216, [Vote #875](#))

Best Practice: Federal Surplus Equipment Workshop

Member: Steve LaTourette (OH-14)

How it works:

- Invite an official from your state's Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) to explain how the federal surplus equipment program works and how it can be a treasure trove of free goodies for local law enforcement. You can find your state coordinator at this site: <https://pubweb.drms.dla.mil/cmisis/StateCoorInfo.htm>
- Ohio departments have gotten free weapons, ATVs, armored vehicles for SWAT teams, uniforms and boats, and departments only pay for shipping. An East Coast department got a FREE helicopter and paid \$3,000 to have it shipped from Hawaii.
- Many departments don't utilize the program, or have never heard of it. There is now an online catalog to view all available surplus items across the globe, which levels the playing field for smaller departments located nowhere near a military base.

The Benefits:

- Member can expect a huge turn-out from law enforcement and public officials
- The lure of "free stuff" from federal government guarantees press coverage.
- Great way to have Member interact with hundreds of local officials in one location with little work for the Member or staff.

Member Office Contact: Deborah Setliff at 800-447-0529, ext 11

Best Practice: Business Development Export Seminar: Teaching Local Employers How to Grow their Business through Exports

Member: Phil English (PA-03)

How it works:

- Choose a marketplace for local businesses to learn how they can export their products to other countries (English has focused on the North American marketplace and CAFTA countries among others).
- Invite a variety of federal agencies (i.e. Commerce, IRS, GSA) to present information on what assistance they can provide to small and medium sized manufacturing businesses regarding exporting products to the specified region.
- Have member give initial welcome address to the group. Invite a speaker from the Administration to give opening remarks.
- Invite local economic development support agencies to set up booths in “trade show display” to boost networking for local businesses.
- Ask a district Chamber of Commerce/local business to publicize the event to their members.
- Schedule media availability for the Member and Administration Representative. Invite local media.

The Benefits:

- Ensures local employers have access to the full range of federal resources and provides excellent networking opportunity for local employers.
- Answers question: “What have you done to help the business community lately?”
- Excellent earned media opportunity.

Member Office Contact: Julia Wanzco, (202) 225-5406

Best Practice: Medicare Part D Outreach Sessions

Member: Lee Terry (NE-02)

Open enrollment for Medicare Part D commences on November 15, 2007 and ends on December 31, 2007.

How it works:

- Contact local Health and Human Services SHIP organization (ex: Nebraska agency funded by SHIP is Volunteers Assisting Seniors “VAS”) and schedule their volunteers to counsel seniors about their Part D choices during Medicare open season.
- Schedule two events in district office.
- Send out letters to constituents ages 64 and older with information about the Medicare open season and information about counseling sessions in district office.
- Schedule 45-minute appointments based on number of computers available in district office on specified dates (if appointments are full, assist seniors in finding other Medicare Part D events and presentations in district).
- Member records PSA. Press Secretary books Member on Radio; places event in local newspaper calendar sections.

The Benefits:

- Excellent outreach event.
- Member becomes a resource for information/resources from CMS
- Generate positive media coverage

Member Office Contact: Karen Davis, (402) 397-9944

NOVEMBER						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Military Family Appreciation Month	National American Indian Heritage Month	National Scholarship Month		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 National Family Week	19	20 FEC Monthly Report Due	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25	26	27	28 CNN/YouTube GOP Presidential Debate (St. Petersburg, FL)	29 National Meth Awareness Day	30	

DECEMBER						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 White House Congressional Ball	4 <u>Back for Votes</u> Hanukkah Begins	5	6 1865: 13th Amendment abolishing slavery was ratified Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting	7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8
9	10	11 OH-5 and VA-1 Special Elections	12 GOP Conference Radio/Blog Row	13 2003: Saddam Hussein was captured	14	15
16	17 CNN/YouTube GOP Presidential Debate (Boston, MA)	18	19 Hanukkah Ends	20 FEC Monthly Report Due	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28	29
					30	31 New Years Eve

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