



John Spratt,
Chairman

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

207 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 226-7200 ★ www.budget.house.gov

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Top Five Reasons to Support 2008 Democratic Budget

Restores Fiscal Responsibility — This is a fiscally responsible budget that brings the budget back to surplus by 2012. It strictly adheres to the pay-as-you-go principle that the House passed in January, requiring that any increased costs for mandatory spending or tax policy be offset elsewhere in the budget. Our budget contains tough program integrity measures to crack down on wasteful spending, and it directs all committees to review their programs to promote efficiency and eliminate unnecessary spending.

Defends Our Nation — Our Democratic budget provides the necessary resources to meet critical threats to the nation and to deliver excellent health care to those who have served. The budget increases funding for veterans' services by \$6.6 billion over the 2007 level, and by \$3.5 billion above the President's request for 2008, to cover the VA's increasing patient load and the cost of forthcoming recommendations to improve health care facilities and treatment for service members and veterans. Our budget also provides robust defense funding while calling for a better targeting of resources to address the nation's most pressing security needs. Finally, it provides more homeland security funding than the President's budget to fund the 9/11 Commission's recommendations, reject the President's cuts to first responders, and adequately address port security needs.

Rejects Misguided Administration Budget — The Democratic budget stands in stark contrast to the Administration budget on many fronts. The Democratic budget reaches balance in 2012 and starts paying down our debt. The Administration budget does neither. The Democratic budget invests in vital services that help Americans – including Head Start, education, LIHEAP, COPS and other first responder programs, CDBGs, and child care – while the President's budget cuts each of these areas.

Promotes Economic Growth and Security — Most important, the budget reduces the deficit. That will decrease our reliance on foreign investors to buy our debt – since 2001, foreign ownership of Treasury securities has more than doubled to \$2.2 trillion, leaving our economy more vulnerable to foreign investment decisions and instability. Our budget invests in education, job training, and health care, which will make the workforce more productive. It stimulates the economy with investments in the farm economy and in research to develop clean, sustainable energy alternatives to help America achieve energy independence in 10 years. And our budget accommodates tax policy changes to reduce burdens on middle-income families, and to promote fairness and efficiency in our economy

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Puts Children and Families First — The Democratic budget puts children and families first by investing in health care and education, accommodating tax relief to middle-income families, and providing assistance for hurricane-ravaged communities. The budget includes a \$50 billion reserve fund to expand the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to cover more of the nine million children without health insurance in this country. It puts its money where its priorities are, increasing funding for education, social services, and job training programs by almost \$8 billion over the 2008 program level in the President’s budget – funding that could be used for vital programs such as Head Start, special education (IDEA), and Title I and other programs under the No Child Left Behind Act, as well as to raise the maximum Pell Grant to at least \$4,600 this year.