

APPROPRIATIONS ALERT

BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

B-71 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Representative Paul Ryan, *Ranking Republican*

Phone: (202)-226-7270
Fax: (202)-226-7174
James T. Bates, *Republican Staff Director*

LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL **\$11 BILLION ABOVE THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST** (H.R. 3043)

The fiscal year 2008 Labor, Health, Human Services and Education [LHHS] appropriations bill provides \$152 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of \$11 billion the President's request, and \$7 billion above the 2007 regular level. Thus it represents nearly half the discretionary spending increase above the President's request that Democrats propose for fiscal year 2008.

Under the Democrat budget resolution, (S.Con.Res. 21), non-emergency discretionary spending will be increased by \$81.4 billion compared with 2007 (including \$26 billion for domestic programs) – growing more than 9 percent, or more than three times the rate of inflation. This is on top of the \$6 billion Democrats added to the current-year omnibus, and the \$17 billion in non-war non-emergency spending they added to the Iraq war supplemental.

Key points include the following:

- ***The Bill Spends \$11 Billion More Than the President.*** As noted, the bills provides \$152 billion in budget authority for fiscal year 2008. This is \$11 billion more than the President requested; and it accounts for more than half of the \$21 billion by which Democrats would increase spending next year above the President's recommendation.
- ***It Boosts LIHEAP \$880 Million Above the President.*** The committee bill provides \$2.7 billion in funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program [LIHEAP], including \$2 billion distributed to States by a specific formula, and \$682 million in "contingency" funds, which can be distributed according to the administration's discretion. This is \$501 million above the regular level and \$880 million above the President's budget.
- ***It Uses a Gimmick to Increase Appropriations.*** The bill provides a total of \$21.3 billion in "advance appropriations" – spending for years after fiscal year 2008 – including a fiscal year 2010 advance of \$420 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It is unclear why CPB receives federal funding 2 years in advance.
- ***It Gives a 21-Percent Increase to HHS Community Development.*** The bill would provide \$33 million for community development at the Department of Health and Human Services, an increase of \$6 million, or 21 percent, above the regular 2007 level. The President's 2008 budget requested zero funding
- ***It Extends 44 Unneeded Education Programs.*** The bill continues funding 44 redundant, narrowly focused, and/or ineffective programs that were not requested in the President's budget. Redirecting these funds could have provided \$2.2 billion in targeted increases for priority programs such as No Child Left Behind and Pell Grants.