



# **Marsha Blackburn**

## **U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TN-7**

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## **BLACKBURN JOINS BUDGET COMMITTEE TO ANNOUNCE REPORTS ON WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE IN GOVERNMENT**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Representative Marsha Blackburn (R-7th) joined Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle (R-IA) today to announce the reports submitted by House committees detailing waste, fraud, and abuse in their respective areas of jurisdiction. The fiscal year 2004 Budget Resolution required that each committee to review misuse of taxpayer dollars in Federal agencies and programs.

"Today is a first step towards eliminating the tremendous waste, fraud, and abuse that occurs in the Federal government," Blackburn said. "I have supported cuts in spending at the state level and I am doing the same at the Federal level. The Government Reform Committee found enormous accounting problems and mismanagement this past year while investigating the Small Business Administration, the Department of Defense, and Medicaid, to name just a few. There's no lack for places to start the reforms, it's a matter of rolling up our sleeves and getting to work. Over thirty years, the Department of Defense has had 2,300 accounting systems. The small business disaster loan program is spending 84% of its sales proceeds on due diligence and administration. Across the Federal government there is an incredible amount of overlap between agencies, costing taxpayers billions a year. As Vice Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency, I am ready to get to work."

Earlier this year Blackburn held a Subcommittee on Government Efficiency hearing in Bartlett, Tennessee on erroneous Medicaid payments to highlight problems with TennCare waste, fraud, and abuse and illustrate how those problems should be avoided at the Federal level. As a founder of the freshman class Washington Waste Watchers group, Blackburn is a leader on this effort in the House.

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