

THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

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THE DEMOCRATS' FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET CONFERENCE REPORT **HIGHER SPENDING**

- ***The Budget Contains a Massive Increase in Domestic Spending.*** The conference report increases non-defense appropriations by \$23 billion above 2007 (and \$21 billion above the President's request). This is on top of the \$6 billion they added to the omnibus, and the more than \$20 billion they are pushing for the war supplemental.
- ***It Allows Unlimited 'Emergency' Spending.*** The conference report abandons the set-aside for domestic emergencies established in last year's budget resolution, and drops any limitation on what Congress can call an "emergency," exempting the spending from any limits. (Even the Senate kept a working definition of an "emergency.")
- ***It Ignores the Coming Entitlement Train Wreck.*** Despite many hearings with expert witnesses warning of runaway entitlement growth, there is no entitlement reform in this report. With mandatory programs projected to spend \$8.5 trillion over the next 5 years, the conference report reconciles a paltry \$750 million. Even worse, the "savings" are really just a fig leaf providing filibuster protection to *expand* big-government spending by as much as \$22 billion.
- ***It Promises Reckless Entitlement Spending Increases.*** In addition, the conference report's 23 reserve funds include promises of more than \$190 billion in additional spending – if coupled with even more tax increases.
- ***The Budget Puts Democrat-Favored Spending Ahead of Social Security.*** Rather than stopping the raid on the Social Security cash surplus, the conference report raises taxes while increasing spending on their favorite big government domestic programs.