



OFFICE OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI FACT SHEET

October 20, 2008

The House Has Made Progress, Passing Over 230 Key Measures— More Than 70 Percent with Significant Bipartisan Support

- **The Democratic-led House has listened to the American people and provided a New Direction. The House has passed a wide range of measures to make America safer, restore the American dream, and restore accountability. We are proud of the progress made but also recognize that much more needs to be done in the next Congress.**
- **The House has had a significant level of achievement, passing over 230 key measures – with more than 70 percent (184 out of 238 measures) passing with significant bipartisan support (i.e., the support of more than 50 Republicans).**
- **The President has signed a number of major measures – including the Economic Rescue Package, Economic Stimulus Act, College Cost Reduction and Access Act, the 9/11 Commission’s Recommendations, the Innovation Agenda, Lobby and Ethics Reform, a Minimum Wage Increase, the Energy Independence and Security bill, a Comprehensive Housing Bill, a Consumer Safety/Toy Safety Bill, and the Higher Education Opportunity Act.**
- **However, on many issues, the President has been a stubborn opponent of progress for the American people. He has vetoed 11 key measures since January 2007 (with Congress overriding four of those vetoes) and has threatened to veto 53 more House-passed measures.**
- **In a number of cases, the President has threatened to veto measures that have significant bipartisan support. For example, he has threatened to veto the bill holding OPEC and Big Oil Companies accountable for price-fixing, which 103 House Republicans voted for.**

Following is an overview of more than 230 key bills that the Democratic-led House has passed in the 110th Congress. The bills are organized under the following topics: Economy/Housing, Infrastructure/Transportation, Consumer Protection, Pay Equity, Energy, Education, Tax Relief, Trade, Civil Rights/Voting Rights, Health Care, Defense/Troops, Veterans, Iraq/Afghanistan, Homeland Security/Intelligence, Small Business, Innovation, Child Safety, Labor, Environment/Public Lands, Law Enforcement/Judiciary, Foreign Affairs, Restoring Accountability, Appropriations, and Miscellaneous.

Economy/Housing

- **Recovery Rebates.** Passed the final version of H.R. 5140, Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act, which puts hundreds of dollars into the hands of more than 130 million American families including seniors and disabled veterans through recovery rebates, increases affordable refinancing opportunities for Americans in danger of losing their homes, and helps create 500,000 jobs by the end of the year, by a bipartisan vote of 380-34, with 165 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on February 13, 2008 (PL 110-185).*

- **Economic Rescue Plan.** Passed the final version of H.R. 1424, Economic Rescue Plan/Tax Extender Package, which is designed to stabilize the financial markets and free up credit for businesses and families by authorizing the Treasury Secretary to purchase illiquid assets, by a bipartisan vote of 263-171, with 91 Republicans voting YEA. The bill also contains numerous taxpayer protections, including a recoupment provision to ensure taxpayers are repaid; homeowner protections; limits on excessive CEO compensation; and strong oversight and transparency. It also raises the amount of bank deposits insured by FDIC from \$100,000 to \$250,000. In addition, it includes extensions of key tax relief provisions and tax incentives for renewable energy (see tax section below). *The President signed the bill on October 3 (PL 110-343).*
- **Extended Unemployment Benefits.** Passed Extended Unemployment Benefits, as part of Amendment #2 to H.R. 2642, FY 2008 Emergency Supplemental, by a bipartisan vote of 416-12, with 186 Republicans voting YEA. The bill provides up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in every state to workers exhausting the 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits. *Incorporated into H.R. 2642, FY 2008 Emergency Supplemental, which the President signed on June 30, 2008 (PL 110-252).*
- **Raising the Minimum Wage.** First passed H.R. 2, Increasing the Minimum Wage, which increases the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years – increasing it from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour over two years, by a bipartisan vote of 315-116, with 82 Republicans voting YEA. *Incorporated into H.R. 2206, FY 2007 Supplemental, which the President signed on May 25, 2007 (PL 110-28).*
- **Comprehensive Housing Package/Responding to Subprime Mortgage Crisis.** Passed H.R. 3221, Comprehensive Housing Package, which provides mortgage refinancing assistance so that families in danger of losing their homes can refinance into lower-cost government-insured mortgages they can afford to repay, and would help at least 400,000 families avoid foreclosure, by a vote of 272-152, with 45 Republicans voting YEA. The package also creates a federal backstop for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which are crucial to the mortgage market. This comprehensive package also contains tax provisions to expand refinancing opportunities and spur home buying; and the provisions of the Neighborhood Stabilization Act, FHA Modernization Act, and GSE Reform Act (see below). *The President signed the bill on July 30, 2008 (PL 110-289).*
- **Neighborhood Stabilization Act/Responding to Subprime Mortgage Crisis.** Incorporated the Neighborhood Stabilization Act into H.R. 3221, Comprehensive Housing Package; the Act provides \$3.9 billion in grants to state and local governments for purchasing and rehabilitating foreclosed homes, in order to help stabilize communities hurt by rising foreclosure rates. *The President signed the bill on July 30, 2008 (PL 110-289).*
- **FHA Modernization Act/Responding to Subprime Mortgage Crisis.** Incorporated the FHA Modernization Act into H.R. 3221, Comprehensive Housing Package; the Act expands access to affordable mortgages, and to “reverse mortgages” for seniors who need equity from their homes; and raises FHA loan limits to create affordable mortgage loans for moderately priced homes. *The President signed the bill on July 30, 2008 (PL 110-289).*
- **GSE Reform Act/Responding to Subprime Mortgage Crisis.** Incorporated the GSE Reform Act into H.R. 3221, Comprehensive Housing Package; the Act creates a tough, independent new regulator in charge of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, in order to ensure that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac safely and soundly work to provide our nation’s families with affordable housing; and creates a new permanent Affordable Housing Trust Fund, financed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and not by the taxpayers. *The President signed the bill on July 30, 2008 (PL 110-289).*

- **Tax Relief/Responding to Subprime Mortgage Crisis.** Passed Senate amendments to H.R. 3648, Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, which takes a key step in responding to the subprime mortgage crisis by stopping the tax on phantom “income” when a lender forgives some part of a family’s mortgage in foreclosure, for the next three years, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on December 20, 2007 (PL 110-142).*
- **Katrina Housing Tax Relief.** Passed H.R. 1562, the Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act, which expands access to low-income financing for homeowners and strengthens tax incentives for building affordable rental housing in the areas of the Gulf Coast affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, by voice vote. *Incorporated into H.R. 2206, FY 2007 Supplemental, which the President signed on May 25, 2007 (PL 110-28).*
- **Economic Stimulus Package.** Passed H.R. 7110, Economic Stimulus Package, which provides \$60.8 billion in steps to stimulate the faltering economy and target aid to people in need, including investment in infrastructure projects; increased Medicaid matching funds for the states so vulnerable individuals don’t lose their health coverage; additional weeks of extended unemployment benefits; and a temporary increase in food stamp benefits (see below), by a vote of 264-158, with 41 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto the bill.*
- **Second Round of Extended Unemployment Benefits.** Passed Extended Unemployment Benefits as part of the Economic Stimulus Package, by a vote of 264-158, with 41 Republicans voting YEA. The bill provides another 7 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in every state (bringing the total amount of potential extended benefits to 20 weeks) and another 13 weeks in states with unemployment rates of 6% or higher. *Included in H.R. 7110, Economic Stimulus Package, which the President threatened to veto.*
- **Second Round of Extended Unemployment Benefits.** Also passed Extended Unemployment Benefits as a stand-alone bill (H.R. 6867), by a bipartisan vote of 368-28, with 142 Republicans voting YEA. The bill provides another 7 weeks of extended unemployment benefits in every state (bringing the total amount of potential extended benefits to 20 weeks) and another 13 weeks in states with unemployment rates of 6% or higher.
- **Temporary Increase in Food Stamp Benefits.** Passed Temporary Increase in Food Stamp Benefits as part of the Economic Stimulus Package, by a vote of 264-158, with 41 Republicans voting YEA. The bill provides \$2.6 billion for a temporary increase in food stamp benefits, to address rising food costs for seniors, people with disabilities and very poor families with children. *Included in H.R. 7110, Economic Stimulus Package, which the President threatened to veto.*
- **Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending/Responding to Subprime Mortgage Crisis.** Passed H.R. 3915, Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, which responds to the subprime mortgage crisis by instituting much needed reform to prevent these bad loans from being made in the first place – making sure that consumers get mortgages they can repay, strengthening consumer protections against reckless and abusive lending practices, and giving consumers the ability to seek redress, by a bipartisan vote of 291-127, with 64 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Making Homeowners’ Insurance More Affordable.** Passed H.R. 3355, Homeowners’ Defense Act, which is designed to stabilize the catastrophe insurance market and make catastrophe insurance more affordable for homeowners by allowing states to combine their disaster risks together through a consortium and by providing states with federal loans when damages exceed the resources of

state-run catastrophe funds, by a vote of 258-155, with 39 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President threatened to veto.***

- **Reforming and Expanding Section 8 Housing Vouchers.** Passed H.R. 1851, Section 8 Voucher Reform Act, which reforms the Section 8 housing vouchers to make their allocation targeted more on need, increases access for rural families, and expands the number of families receiving vouchers, by a bipartisan vote of 333-83, with 110 Republicans voting YEA.
- **HOPE VI Reauthorization.** Passed H.R. 3524, HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act, which reauthorizes the successful HOPE VI program, that revitalizes severely distressed and obsolete public housing projects, transforming communities across the country, through FY 2015, and includes improvements, by a bipartisan vote of 271-130, with 53 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Gulf Coast Housing.** Passed H.R. 1227, Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act, which speeds up the repair and rebuilding of homes and affordable rental housing in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, by a bipartisan vote of 302-125, with 72 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Housing for People with Disabilities.** Passed H.R. 5772, Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act, which is designed to triple the number of new affordable, supportive housing units for low-income people with disabilities constructed each year, by voice vote.
- **Modernizing Flood Insurance.** Passed H.R. 3121, Flood Insurance Modernization Act, which provides overdue and much-needed reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), including phasing out unnecessary subsidies, encouraging broader participation, and providing a new optional multiple peril policy that allows property owners to purchase wind and flood coverage in a single policy, by a vote of 263-146, with 45 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President threatened to veto.***
- **Farm Bill (With Only 14 of the 15 Titles).** Passed the conference report on H.R. 2419, the Farm Bill, which takes a first step on reforms to farm payments, including beginning to place restrictions on farm subsidies for those who do not need them; increases funding for food stamps and other nutrition programs by \$10.4 billion over 5 years; and increases funding for conservation programs by \$7.9 billion over 5 years, by a bipartisan vote of 318-106, with 100 Republicans voting YEA. However, this version inadvertently only had 14 of the Farm Bill's 15 Titles. ***This bill became law after the House and Senate successfully overrode the President's veto (PL 110-234.)***
- **Corrected, Final Version of Farm Bill.** Passed H.R. 6124, the corrected, final version of the Farm Bill, containing all 15 titles of the Farm Bill, which takes a first step on reforms to farm payments, including beginning to place restrictions on farm subsidies for those who do not need them; increases funding for food stamps and other nutrition programs by \$10.4 billion over 5 years; increases funding for conservation programs by \$7.9 billion; and promotes homegrown renewable energy, by a bipartisan vote of 306-110, with 90 Republicans voting YEA. ***This bill became law after the House and Senate successfully overrode the President's veto (PL 110-246.)***
- **Patent Reform.** Passed H.R. 1908, Patent Reform Act, which strengthens the patent system and improves patent quality – critical to American inventors and American ingenuity in a global market, benefits consumers by bringing cutting-edge products to the market, and stimulates greater innovation, growth and competitiveness, by a bipartisan vote of 220-175, with 60 Republicans voting YEA.

- **Appalachian Regional Development.** Passed an amended version of S. 496, Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments, which authorizes funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission that oversees grant programs to assist a 13-state area, through FY 2012, including \$65 million through FY 2012 to promote renewable energy, such as biomass, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 8, 2008 (PL 110-371).*
- **Expanding Broadband.** Passed S. 1492, Broadband Data Improvement Act, which puts the country further down the path toward universal broadband deployment by improving the quality of data regarding the availability of broadband services so that policy makers can make more informed decisions about effectively expanding broadband deployment, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 10, 2008 (PL 110-385).*

Infrastructure/Transportation

- **Filling Projected Shortfall in Highway Trust Fund, Preventing Loss of 380,000 Jobs.** Passed the final version of H.R. 6532, Highway Trust Fund Restoration Act, which fills the projected shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund, by restoring \$8 billion from the General Treasury that had been taken out of the Trust Fund in 1998, thereby preventing a potential \$14 billion cut in federal highway investment in FY 2009 and a loss of 380,000 jobs, by a bipartisan vote of 376-29, with 152 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on September 15, 2008 (PL 110-318).*
- **Allowing Completion of Key Highway Projects, Creating 40,000 Jobs.** Passed H.R. 1195, Highway Bill, which allows the completion of important highway and transit projects outlined in the 2005 highway bill, thereby helping create and promote 40,000 new, good-paying American jobs in highway-related construction, by a bipartisan vote of 358-51, with 138 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on June 6, 2008 (PL 110-244).*
- **Amtrak Modernization.** Passed the final version of H.R. 2095, Amtrak Modernization/Railway Safety Act (incorporating the Amtrak and Railway Safety bills into one bill; see below), which invests in modernizing and improving Amtrak train services, which lower American fuel consumption and reduce global warming because they are more energy efficient than both cars and airplanes, and also creates a new state grant program for developing new intercity passenger rail services, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 16, 2008 (PL 110-432).*
- **Railway Safety.** Passed the final version of H.R. 2095, Amtrak Modernization/Railway Safety Act (incorporating the Amtrak and Railway Safety bills into one bill), which strengthens the economy by improving the safety of railways, which play a key role in our economy, including upgrading safety at rail tracks and crossings and ensuring more rest for railroad workers, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 16, 2008 (PL 110-432).*
- **Water Resources Development.** Passed over the President's veto H.R. 1495, Water Resources Development Act, which strengthens America's economy, improves our environment and helps protect communities from disasters such as flooding and hurricanes, by investing in a backlog of flood control, shoreline protection, inland navigation and environmental restoration projects that have stacked up because the GOP-led Congress failed to complete a water resources bill for six years, by a bipartisan vote of 381-40, with 155 Republicans voting YEA. *This bill became law after the House and Senate successfully overrode the President's veto (PL 110-114).*
- **Minnesota Bridge Reconstruction.** Passed H.R. 3311, Minnesota Bridge Reconstruction, which authorizes \$250 million for a project to repair and reconstruct the Interstate 35W highway bridge in

Minneapolis, which collapsed on August 1, killing at least 5 people, by a unanimous vote of 421-0, with 193 Republicans voting YEA. [The President signed the bill on August 6, 2007 \(PL 110-56\).](#)

- **Modernizing Federal Aviation Administration/Passenger Bill of Rights.** Passed H.R. 2881, FAA Modernization Act/Passenger Bill of Rights, which modernizes the aging air traffic control system and strengthens airport infrastructure to reduce delays and improve safety; increases the number of safety inspectors; includes environmental protections to reduce global warming; and contains an Airline Passenger Bill of Rights by a vote of 267-151, with 43 Republicans voting YEA. [The President threatened to veto.](#)
- **Barring Long-Haul Mexican Trucks from U.S. Roads.** Passed H.R. 6630, Barring Access of Long-Haul Mexican Trucks, which ends a demonstration program undertaken by the Bush Administration allowing long-haul Mexican trucks on U.S. roads beyond a 25-mile border zone along the U.S.-Mexican border, by a bipartisan vote of 395-18, with 180 Republicans voting YEA. [The President threatened to veto.](#)
- **Reconstruction of Structurally Deficient Bridges, Creating Nearly 35,000 Jobs.** Passed H.R. 3999, National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act, which improves the safety of highway bridges, strengthens bridge inspection requirements, and authorizes an additional \$1 billion in FY 2009 for reconstruction of structurally deficient bridges, thereby creating nearly 35,000 new, good-paying jobs, by a bipartisan vote of 367-55, with 137 Republicans voting YEA.

Consumer Protection

- **Consumer Product Safety/Toy Safety.** Passed the conference report on H.R. 4040, Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, which essentially eliminates lead from toys and children's products; prohibits the use of dangerous phthalates in children's toys and child care products; requires mandatory third-party testing of toys; and provides the Consumer Product Safety Commission with significantly greater resources and personnel, by a bipartisan vote of 424-1, with 193 Republicans voting YEA. [The President signed the bill on August 14, 2008 \(PL 110-314\).](#)
- **Improving Drug Safety.** Passed H.R. 3580, the final House-Senate agreement on FDA Reauthorization/Improving Drug Safety, which contains the most sweeping drug safety provisions in years, including creating a new FDA program to monitor the safety of drugs after they are on the market, increasing the penalties for drug companies that violate safety standards, and imposing stricter conflict-of-interest provisions, by a bipartisan vote of 405-7, with 183 Republicans voting YEA. [The President signed the bill on September 27, 2007 \(PL 110-85\).](#)
- **Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights.** Passed H.R. 5244, Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights, which provides crucial protections against unfair, but all too common, credit card practices, by ending unfair, arbitrary interest rate increases, ending penalties on cardholders who pay on time, and protecting consumers from due date gimmicks, by a bipartisan vote of 312-112, with 84 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Calling Card Consumer Protection.** Passed H.R. 3402, Calling Card Consumer Protection Act, which protects consumers who purchase calling cards by combating widespread abusive and deceptive marketing practices, such as hidden charges, by voice vote.

Pay Equity

- **Ensuring Women and Other Workers Fair Pay.** Passed H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which rectifies the recent Supreme Court decision of *Ledbetter v. Goodyear*, which had made it much more difficult for women and other workers to pursue pay discrimination claims, thereby restoring the longstanding interpretation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, by a vote of 225-199. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Strengthening the Equal Pay Act.** Passed H.R. 1338, Paycheck Fairness Act, which strengthens the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by providing more effective remedies to women who are not being paid equal wages for doing equal work, prohibiting employers from retaliating against employees who share salary information, and closing the loopholes that have allowed employers to avoid responsibility for discriminatory pay, by a vote of 247-178. *The President threatened to veto.*

Energy

- **Energy Independence and Security Act.** Passed H.R. 6, Energy Independence and Security Act, which reduces our dependence on foreign oil, reduces global warming, and lowers energy costs by such steps as raising the CAFÉ standards for the first time in 32 years, providing new energy efficiency standards, making a historic commitment to biofuels, requiring 15% of electricity to come from renewable sources, and repealing billions in subsidies for big oil while providing tax incentives for renewable energy, by a vote of 235-181. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Revised Energy Independence and Security Act.** Passed Senate amendments to H.R. 6, Energy and Security Act, which reduces our dependence on foreign oil, reduces global warming, and lowers energy costs for consumers by such steps as raising the CAFÉ standards for the first time in 32 years, providing new energy efficiency standards, and making an historic commitment to American-grown biofuels – but drops the renewable electricity standard and the repeal of subsidies for big oil, by a bipartisan vote of 314-100, with 95 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on December 19, 2007 (PL 110-140).*
- **Comprehensive American Energy Security & Consumer Protection Act.** Passed H.R. 6899, Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act, which lowers costs to consumers and protects taxpayers by releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and repealing tax breaks for Big Oil; creates a Renewable Energy Reserve to invest in clean, renewable energy resources and extends and expands tax incentives for renewable energy; expands domestic energy supply including a responsible compromise on expanded drilling in the OCS; and makes investments in greater energy efficiency and conservation, by a vote of 236-189. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Tax Incentives for Renewable Energy/Extensions of Key Tax Relief.** Passed H.R. 6049, Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, which expands tax incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency, creating hundreds of thousands of green jobs; and also extends key tax relief provisions for working families, including the college tuition deduction, state and local sales tax deduction, and property tax relief; and for businesses, including the R&D tax credit; by a vote of 263-160, with 35 Republicans voting YEA. This tax relief was fully paid for. *The President threatened to veto.*

- **Final Tax Incentives for Renewable Energy/Extensions of Key Tax Relief.** Passed Extensions of Key Tax Relief/Tax Incentives for Renewable Energy, as part of H.R. 1424, Economic Rescue/Tax Extender Package, by a bipartisan vote of 263-171, with 91 Republicans voting YEA. The bill expands tax incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency, creating hundreds of thousands of green jobs; and also extends key tax relief provisions for working families, including the college tuition deduction, state and local sales tax deduction, and property tax relief; and for businesses, including the R&D tax credit. *Included in H.R. 1424, Economic Rescue/Tax Extender Package, which the President signed on October 3, 2008 (PL 110-343).*
- **Select Committee on Energy Security and Global Warming.** Passed H.Res. 202, Committee Funding Resolution, which includes provisions to establish a House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, to raise the visibility of these urgent issues, by a vote of 269-150, with 44 Republicans voting YEA. *No presidential signature required.*
- **Temporarily Suspending Filling SPR.** Passed H.R. 6022, Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act, which temporarily suspends oil purchases for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) until the end of the year, by a bipartisan vote of 385-25, with 162 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on May 19, 2008 (PL 110-232).*
- **Cracking Down on Excessive Speculation in Energy Markets.** Passed H.R. 6604, Commodity Market Transparency and Accountability Act, which takes crucial, common sense steps to curb excessive speculation in the energy futures markets, which is driving up gas prices, including further closing the Enron loophole and bringing much-needed transparency to commodities and futures markets, by a bipartisan vote of 283-133, with 69 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **OPEC and Big Oil Companies Accountability.** Passed H.R. 6074, Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act, which combats record gas prices by authorizing lawsuits against oil cartel members for oil price fixing, and creating an Antitrust Task Force to crack down on oil companies engaged in anticompetitive behavior or market manipulation, by a bipartisan vote of 324-84, with 103 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Stopping Gasoline Price Gouging.** Passed H.R. 1252, Price Gouging Prevention Act, which sets criminal penalties for price gouging of gasoline, and permits states to bring lawsuits against wholesalers or retailers who engage in such practices, by a bipartisan vote of 284-141, with 56 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Saving Energy Through Public Transportation.** Passed H.R. 6052, Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act, which reduces fares for public transit to give consumers a cost-effective alternative to \$4-per-gallon gasoline and expands service through grants to transit agencies, by a bipartisan vote of 322-98, with 91 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Preventing OPEC Price Fixing.** Passed H.R. 2264, No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act (NOPEC), which authorizes the Justice Department to take legal action against OPEC state-controlled entities that participate in conspiracies to limit the supply, or fix the price, of oil, by a bipartisan vote of 345-72, with 125 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*

Education

- **Making College More Affordable, by Expanding Student Aid by \$20 Billion.** Passed the conference report on H.R. 2669, College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which contains the single largest investment in college financial assistance since the 1944 GI Bill, including increasing the maximum Pell Grant by \$1,090 -- to \$5,400 -- by 2012, cutting interest rates in half on need-based college loans, and providing loan repayment for those who enter public service careers, by a bipartisan vote of 292-97, with 77 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on September 27, 2007 (PL 110-84).*
- **Expanding College Access/Reforming Student Loan Industry.** Passed the conference report on H.R. 4137, Higher Education Opportunity Act, which builds on the 2007 law with additional steps to make college more accessible and affordable, including giving colleges incentives to rein in tuition increases, making textbook costs more manageable, and simplifying the federal student aid application process, by a bipartisan vote of 380-49, with 146 Republicans voting YEA. The bill also cleans up abuses in the student loan industry. *The President signed the bill on August 14, 2008 (PL 110-315).*
- **Continued Access to Student Loans.** Passed the final version of H.R. 5715, Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act, which provides students with continued, uninterrupted access to federally guaranteed student loans, despite the current credit crisis, by for example allowing the Education Department to buy privately-held student loans, by a bipartisan vote of 388-21, with 167 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on May 7, 2008 (PL 110-227).*
- **Head Start.** Passed the conference report on H.R. 1429, Improving Head Start Act, which expands and improves the successful Head Start early childhood education program, and includes strong accountability measures to ensure programs are succeeding, by a bipartisan vote of 381-36, with 154 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on December 12, 2007 (PL 110-134).*
- **Green School Construction.** Passed H.R. 3021, 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, which authorizes \$6.4 billion in FY 2009 for green school construction projects, including modernization, renovation, and repair projects that improve the teaching and learning climate, health and safety, and energy efficiency of school buildings, by a vote of 250-164, with 27 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Strengthening Environmental Education.** Passed H.R. 3036, No Child Left Inside Act, which improves federal environmental education programs, including requiring state academic content standards, taking steps to place qualified, expert teachers in the classroom, and creating a grant program to solicit proposals to incorporate environmental education programs into school curricula, by a bipartisan vote of 293-109, with 68 Republicans voting YEA.

Tax Relief

- **Bill Providing Tax Relief for Middle-Class Families in 2007.** Passed H.R. 4351, AMT Relief Act of 2007, which protects 19 million middle-class families from the Alternative Minimum Tax in 2007, without increasing the national debt, by a vote of 226-193. The bill was paid for by closing a loophole to prevent hedge fund managers and others from using offshore tax haven corporations to defer taxes on compensation. *The President threatened to veto.*

- **Final Bill Providing Tax Relief for Middle-Class Families in 2007.** Passed Senate amendments to H.R. 3996, AMT Relief Act of 2007, which protects 19 million middle-class families from the Alternative Minimum Tax in 2007, by a bipartisan vote of 352-64, with 195 Republicans voting YEA. The original version of H.R. 3996 passed by the House had paid for the tax relief by closing certain tax loopholes for the privileged few, such as investment fund managers. (The House also passed H.R. 4351; see above). However, due to Republican opposition to ensuring the AMT bill did not increase the deficit, this final version of the bill was not paid for. *The President signed the bill on December 26, 2007 (PL 110-166).*
- **Bill Providing Tax Relief for Middle-Class Families in 2008.** Passed H.R. 6275, Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008, which protects 25 million middle-class families from the Alternative Minimum Tax in 2008, without increasing the national debt, by a vote of 233-189. The bill was fully paid for by closing certain tax loopholes for the privileged few, such as investment fund managers. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Final Bill Providing Tax Relief for Middle-Class Families in 2008.** Passed AMT Tax Relief as part of H.R. 1424, Economic Rescue/Tax Extender Package, by a bipartisan vote of 263-171, with 91 Republicans voting YEA. The bill protects 25 million middle-class families from the Alternative Minimum Tax in 2008. An earlier bill passed by the House had paid for AMT tax relief by closing certain tax loopholes for the wealthy. However, due to GOP opposition to ensuring AMT relief did not increase the deficit, this final version was not paid for. *Included in H.R. 1424, Economic Rescue/Tax Extender Package, which the President signed on October 3, 2008 (PL 110-343).*
- **Extensions of Key Tax Relief/Tax Incentives for Renewable Energy.** Passed H.R. 6049, Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, which extends key tax relief provisions for working families, including the college tuition deduction, state and local sales tax deduction, and property tax relief; and for businesses, including the R&D tax credit; and also expands tax incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency, creating hundreds of thousands of green jobs, by a vote of 263-160, with 35 Republicans voting YEA. This tax relief was fully paid for. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Final Extensions of Key Tax Relief/Tax Incentives for Renewable Energy.** Passed Extensions of Key Tax Relief/Tax Incentives for Renewable Energy, as part of H.R. 1424, Economic Rescue/Tax Extender Package, by a bipartisan vote of 263-171, with 91 Republicans voting YEA. The bill extends key tax relief provisions for working families, including the college tuition deduction, state and local sales tax deduction, and property tax relief; and for businesses, including the R&D tax credit; and also expands tax incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency, creating hundreds of thousands of green jobs. *Included in H.R. 1424, Economic Rescue/Tax Extender Package, which the President signed on October 3, 2008 (PL 110-343).*
- **Extension of the Internet Tax Moratorium.** Passed final version of H.R. 3678, Seven-Year Extension of Internet Tax Moratorium, which helps the economy by providing a seven-year extension of the Internet tax moratorium, by a unanimous vote of 402-0, with 181 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on October 31, 2007 (PL 110-108).*

Trade

- **Expanding Trade Adjustment Assistance.** Passed H.R. 3920, the Trade and Globalization Assistance Act, which expands and improves Trade Adjustment Assistance, which provides job

training and other assistance to workers laid off due to trade, including extending it to service workers and to more manufacturing workers, by a vote of 264-157, with 38 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President threatened to veto.***

- **Stopping “Fast Track” for Colombia Trade Deal.** Passed H.Res. 1092, Colombia Trade “Fast Track” Requirements, which suspends “fast track” requirements for considering a bill that would implement a U.S.-Colombia free-trade agreement, by a vote of 224-195. The Democratic Leadership has stated that key economic measures to help struggling American families must be enacted before the Colombia Trade Pact can come to the Floor for a vote. ***No presidential signature required.***
- **Renewal of Trade Preference Programs.** Passed H.R. 7222, Extending Trade Preference Programs, which renews the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), renews the Andean Trade Preference Act, and allows America’s trade preference program with Africa to work better, by voice vote. ***The President signed the bill on October 16, 2008 (PL 110-436).***
- **U.S.-Peru Trade Agreement.** Passed H.R. 3688, U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, which implements the U.S.-Peru Trade Agreement that would reduce most tariffs and duties affecting trade between the two countries and that includes labor and environmental standards within the agreement, by a bipartisan vote of 285-132, with 176 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President signed the bill on December 14, 2007 (PL 110-138).***

Civil Rights/Voting Rights

- **Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments.** Passed the final version of S. 3406, Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, which is a major civil rights law that overturns four erroneous Supreme Court decisions that have eroded the protections for people with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), restoring original Congressional intent, by voice vote. ***The President signed the bill on September 25, 2008 (PL 110-325).***
- **Emmitt Till Unsolved Crimes Act.** Passed H.R. 923, Emmitt Till Unsolved Crimes Act, which establishes an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, to solve civil rights-era murders that remain unsolved, by a bipartisan vote of 422-2, with 193 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President signed the bill on October 7, 2008 (PL 110-344).***
- **Preventing Voter Deception and Voter Intimidation.** Passed H.R. 1281, Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act, which is designed to combat the numerous, documented efforts to deceive or intimidate voters to keep them away from the polls, by making voter deception a federal crime and increasing the penalties for voter intimidation, by voice vote.
- **D.C. Voting Rights.** Passed H.R. 1905, D.C. Voting Rights Act, which provides a vote in Congress to the 600,000 residents of the District of Columbia and a new, at-large seat through the 112th Congress to the state next entitled to representation (which is Utah, according to the Census), by a vote of 241-177, with 22 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President threatened to veto.***

Health Care

- **Blocking 10% Medicare Physician Pay Cut/Improving Medicare.** Passed H.R. 6331, Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, which prevents a 10% payment reduction for

physicians in Medicare (which would have resulted in millions of seniors losing access to the doctors they know and trust), enhances Medicare prevention and mental health benefits, improves and extends programs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries, and improves access to care for rural seniors, by a bipartisan vote of 355 to 59, with 129 Republicans voting YEA. *This bill became law after the House and Senate successfully overrode the President's veto (PL 110-275).*

- **Blocking Damaging Medicaid Regulations.** Passed provisions blocking damaging Medicaid regulations, as part of Amendment #2 to H.R. 2642, FY 2008 Emergency Supplemental, by a bipartisan vote of 416-12, with 186 Republicans voting YEA. These provisions place a moratorium until April 2009 on six damaging Medicaid regulations which, if implemented, would slash Medicaid funding by billions and put in jeopardy needed services and protections for millions of vulnerable beneficiaries. *Incorporated into H.R. 2642, FY 2008 Emergency Supplemental, which the President signed on June 30, 2008 (PL 110-252.)*
- **Mental Health Parity.** Passed the final version of Mental Health Parity/Addiction Equity as part of H.R. 1424, Economic Rescue/Tax Extender Package, by a bipartisan vote of 263-171, with 91 Republicans voting YEA. The bill is designed to end discrimination against patients seeking treatment for mental illnesses and addiction care by prohibiting insurers from imposing treatment or financial limitations when they offer mental health and addiction care that are more restrictive from those applied to medical and surgical services. *Included in H.R. 1424, Economic Rescue/Tax Extender Package, which the President signed on October 3, 2008 (PL 110-343).*
- **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination.** Passed H.R. 493, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination, which prohibits health insurance companies and employers from discriminating against people on the basis of genetic test results and thereby removes the fear that has prevented many Americans from undergoing testing necessary for early treatment and prevention of genetic-based diseases, by a bipartisan vote of 414-1, with 188 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on May 21, 2008 (PL 110-233).*
- **Global AIDS Bill.** Passed the final version of H.R. 5501, U.S. Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization, which authorizes \$48 billion for U.S.'s bilateral and multilateral programs to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria around the world over next five years, \$18 billion over the President's request, by a bipartisan vote of 303-115, with 75 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on July 30, 2008 (PL 110-293).*
- **Providing Health Coverage for 10 Million Children.** Passed H.R. 976, the House-Senate agreement on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act, which renews and improves the Children's Health Insurance Program, providing coverage for 6 million children currently covered by CHIP and extending coverage to nearly 4 million uninsured children, according to the nonpartisan CBO, by a vote of 265-159, with 45 Republicans voting YEA. The bill also improves CHIP benefits – ensuring dental coverage and mental health parity. *The President vetoed the bill on October 3, 2007.*
- **Revised Bill Providing Health Coverage for 10 Million Children.** Passed H.R. 3963, a revised bill to provide health care coverage to 10 million children – revised to meet certain concerns that had been raised. Specifically, it included changes to: better ensure low-income children are enrolled first; better ensure illegal immigrants are excluded; speed up the phasing out of adults; and minimize children leaving private insurance for CHIP, by a vote of 265-142, with 43 Republicans voting YEA. *The President vetoed the bill on December 12, 2007.*

- **Stem Cell Research.** Passed S. 5, Promoting Stem Cell Research, clearing it for the President, which promotes life-saving embryonic stem cell research by increasing the number of stem cell lines that are eligible to be used in federally-funded research, by a vote of 247-176, with 37 Republicans voting YEA. *The President vetoed the bill on June 20, 2007.*
- **Medicare Drug Price Negotiation.** Passed H.R. 4, Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act, which directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate with drug companies for lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries, by a vote of 255-170, with 24 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Increased Medicaid Aid.** Passed Increased Aid to the States for Medicaid, as part of the Economic Stimulus Package, by a vote of 264-158, with 41 Republicans voting YEA. The bill provides \$14.7 billion in temporary increased Medicaid matching funds to the states, which are struggling in today's economy, in order to better ensure that low-income children, seniors and other vulnerable individuals do not lose their health care coverage. *Included in H.R. 7110, Economic Stimulus Package, which the President threatened to veto.*
- **FDA Regulation of Tobacco Products.** Passed H.R. 1108, Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, which grants the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate the advertising, marketing, and manufacturing of tobacco products and includes several provisions to reduce underage smoking, including banning all outdoor tobacco advertising within 1,000 feet of schools and restricting vending machines to adult-only facilities, by a bipartisan vote of 326-102, with 96 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP Extension.** Passed S. 2499, Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP Extension Act, which extends CHIP through March 31, 2009 and provides additional funding to ensure that no children currently enrolled will be dropped from their coverage; blocks the scheduled 10.1% cut in Medicare physician payment for six months; and imposes a six-month moratorium on certain of the Bush Administration's Medicaid regulations, by a bipartisan vote of 411-3, with 192 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on December 29, 2007 (PL 110-173).*
- **Suspending Medicare "Trigger."** Passed H.Res. 1368, Suspending Medicare "Trigger," which suspends for the remainder of the 110th Congress a Medicare "trigger" created by Republicans in 2003, which is not a meaningful measure of Medicare's fiscal health, is designed to advance the GOP agenda to dismantle Medicare, and would have required consideration of a bill this year cutting Medicare benefits, by a vote of 231-184. *No presidential signature required.*
- **Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection.** Passed H.R. 1132, National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization, which reauthorizes for five years a program that provides free and low-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings to low-income, minority, or uninsured women, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on April 20, 2007 (PL 110-18).*
- **Breast Cancer and Environmental Research.** Passed H.R. 1157, Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act, which authorizes \$40 million over the next four years for federal research investigating the links between breast cancer and the environment, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 8, 2008 (PL 110-354).*
- **Traumatic Brain Injury.** Passed S. 793, Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization, which reauthorizes the critical Traumatic Brain Injury Act, which gives HHS grants to states to provide

treatment and rehabilitation for TBI patients, by a bipartisan vote of 392-1, with 180 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President signed the bill on April 28, 2008 \(PL 110-206\).*](#)

- **Screening of Newborns.** Passed S. 1858, Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, which awards grants to states to expand screenings of newborn babies for congenital, genetic and metabolic disorders, by voice vote. [*The President signed the bill on April 28, 2008 \(PL 110-204\).*](#)
- **Safety of Seniors.** Passed S. 845, The Safety of Seniors Act, which launches a comprehensive preventative program, through HHS, to reduce the number and severity of falls by the elderly, by voice vote. [*The President signed the bill on April 28, 2008 \(PL 110-202\).*](#)
- **Childhood Cancer.** Passed H.R. 1553, Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which is designed to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, and establish a national childhood cancer database, by a unanimous vote of 416-0, with 191 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President signed the bill on July 29, 2008 \(PL 110-285\).*](#)
- **Community Health Centers.** Passed H.R. 1343, Health Care Safety Net Act, which authorizes \$14.1 billion for FYs 2008-2012 for the country's 6,300 community health centers, which serve 17 million uninsured and underinsured people each year, by a bipartisan vote of 393-24, with 169 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President signed the bill on October 8, 2008 \(PL 110-355\).*](#)
- **Health Coverage for Ill College Students.** Passed H.R. 2851, Michelle's Law, which allows college students who fall ill to leave school for up to a year without losing coverage under their parents' health insurance policies, by voice vote. [*The President signed the bill on October 9, 2008 \(PL 110-381\).*](#)
- **ALS Registry.** Passed S. 1382, ALS Registry Act, which provides for the creation of a single nationwide ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis; or "Lou Gehrig's Disease") patient registry, which will help collect needed data for ALS research and disease management – enhancing efforts to find a treatment and cure for ALS, by a vote of 415-2, with 189 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President signed the bill on October 8, 2008 \(PL 110-373\).*](#)
- **Poison Control Centers.** Passed S. 2932, Poison Center Support, Enhancement, and Awareness, which reauthorizes the poison control center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention, by a bipartisan vote of 403-6, with 184 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President signed the bill on October 8, 2008 \(PL 110-377\).*](#)
- **Breast Cancer Patient Protection.** Passed H.R. 758, Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act, which requires health insurers to cover minimum lengths of stay for patients undergoing procedures to treat and diagnose breast cancer, thereby ending "drive-through" mastectomies, by a bipartisan vote of 421-2, with 190 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Cervical Cancer Screening.** Passed H.R. 1237, Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act, which improves the analysis of tests for cervical cancer by ensuring that health care professionals who read tests for cervical cancer are skilled in today's medical technology, by voice vote.
- **HEART for Women Act.** Passed H.R. 1014, Heart Disease Education, Analysis, Research, and Treatment Act, which authorizes grants to educate doctors about the unique aspects of preventing,

diagnosing, and treatment women with heart disease, by a bipartisan vote of 418-4, with 189 Republicans voting YEA.

Defense/Troops

- **First Version of FY 2008 Defense Authorization.** Passed the conference report on H.R. 1585, FY 2008 Defense Authorization, which contained numerous readiness initiatives to strengthen our military, contained the Wounded Warrior Act, and also contained a 3.5% military pay raise, by a bipartisan vote of 370-49, with 188 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President vetoed the bill on December 28, 2007, over a provision regarding legal claims against the Iraqi government.***
- **Final Version of FY 2008 Defense Authorization.** Passed H.R. 4986, the final version of the FY 2008 Defense Authorization, by a bipartisan vote of 369-46, with 187 Republicans voting YEA. This bill is identical to the earlier bill except that it responds to the President's veto by including a revised provision on legal claims against the Iraqi government. Like the earlier version, the bill contains numerous readiness initiatives to strengthen our military, contains the Wounded Warrior Act to improve the care of returning wounded troops, and contains a 3.5% military pay raise, larger than the President's. ***The President signed the bill on January 28, 2008 (PL 110-181).***
- **FY 2008 Defense Appropriations.** Passed the conference report on H.R. 3222, FY 2008 Defense Appropriations, which includes numerous provisions to strengthen America's military, including investing in improved military readiness; providing the strained National Guard and Reserve with needed equipment; funding a 3.5% military pay raise, larger than the President's; upgrading military health care; and providing more support for military families, by a bipartisan vote of 400-15, with 189 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President signed the bill on November 13, 2007 (PL 110-116).***
- **Wounded Warriors Act.** Passed H.R. 1538, Wounded Warrior Act, which responds to the Walter Reed scandal by improving the care of injured soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, by a unanimous vote of 426-0, with 200 Republicans voting YEA. ***Incorporated into H.R. 4986, FY 2008 Defense Authorization, which the President signed on January 28, 2008 (PL 110-181).***
- **FY 2009 Defense Authorization.** Passed S. 3001, FY 2009 Defense Authorization, representing a House-Senate agreement on the bill, which contains numerous provisions to help restore our nation's military readiness; provides additional equipment to protect our troops in harm's way; provides a 3.9% military pay raises, higher than the President's request; and contains provisions to reform military contracting, by a bipartisan vote of 392-39, with 192 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President signed the bill on October 14, 2008 (PL 110-417).***
- **FY 2009 Defense Appropriations.** Passed FY 2009 Defense Appropriations (as part of H.R. 2638, a consolidated appropriations bill), which includes numerous provisions to strengthen America's military, including investing in improved military readiness; funding a 3.9% military pay raise, larger than the President's; upgrading military health care; and providing more support for military families, by a bipartisan vote of 370-58, with 146 Republicans voting YEA. ***Included in H.R. 2638, Consolidated Appropriations, which the President signed on September 30, 2008 (PL 110-329).***
- **Tax Relief for Military Families and Veterans.** Passed H.R. 6081, Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act (HEART Act), which provides \$1.2 billion in targeted tax breaks to military personnel and their families, including tax relief under the Earned Income Tax Credit, clarifies the availability of recovery rebates for military families, and expands homeownership opportunities for

veterans, by a unanimous vote of 403-0, with 184 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President signed the bill on June 17, 2008 \(PL 110-245\).*](#)

- **Higher Education Relief for U.S. Troops.** Passed H.R. 3625, HEROS Act, which makes permanent the Secretary of Education's authority to provide U.S. troops called to active duty with higher education relief, including providing them more leeway on repaying their student loans, by voice vote. [*The President signed the bill on September 30, 2007 \(PL 110-93\).*](#)
- **Bankruptcy Relief for National Guard and Reservists.** Passed S. 3197, National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act, which makes it easier for members of the National Guard and Reserves called up for active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, who are often required to leave small businesses behind and jobs behind at a moment's notice, to file for bankruptcy, by exempting them from the means test requirements of the 2005 Bankruptcy Law, by voice vote. [*The bill is on its way to the President's desk for his signature.*](#)
- **Bonuses for Wounded U.S. Troops.** Passed H.R. 3793, Veterans' Guaranteed Bonus Act, which fully addresses the military bonus problems highlighted by the Dole-Shalala Commission – providing essential financial security to our wounded servicemen and women by guaranteeing full payment of bonuses earned and owed to them, by a unanimous vote of 405-0, with 189 Republicans voting YEA.

Veterans

- **New GI Bill.** Passed the new GI Bill, as part of Amendment #2 to H.R. 2642, FY 2008 Emergency Supplemental, by a bipartisan vote of 416-12, with 186 Republicans voting YEA. The new GI bill fully restores full, four-year college scholarships for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, on a par with the educational benefits after World War II, covering up to the cost of the most expensive in-state public school and also provides transferability of unused education benefits to spouses and children. [*Incorporated into H.R. 2642, FY 2008 Emergency Supplemental, which the President signed on June 30, 2008 \(PL 110-252\).*](#)
- **Largest Increase in Veterans' Funding in History.** Passed H.R. 2642, FY 2008 Military Construction-Veterans' Affairs Appropriations, which provides the largest increase in veterans' funding in the 77-year history of the VA, targeted on ensuring that our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan receive the quality health care that they deserve, by a bipartisan vote of 409-2, with 185 Republicans voting YEA. (The Military Construction-Veterans' Affairs Appropriations provisions – providing the largest increase in veterans' funding in history – were ultimately [*included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill, PL 110-161.*](#))
- **Another Historic Increase in Veterans' Funding.** Passed FY 2009 Military Construction-Veterans' Affairs Appropriations (as part of H.R. 2638, a consolidated appropriations bill), which provides another historic increase in veterans' funding, targeted on ensuring that our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan receive the quality health care they deserve, with an increase of \$4.5 billion over FY 2008 and of \$2.8 billion over the President's request, by a bipartisan vote of 370-58, with 146 Republicans voting YEA. [*Included in H.R. 2638, Consolidated Appropriations, which the President signed on September 30, 2008 \(PL 110-329\).*](#)
- **Omnibus Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements.** Passed S. 2162, Omnibus Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act, which expands treatment for substance abuse disorders and mental health care for veterans; funds research into better treatment for Post

Traumatic Stress Disorder and substance abuse disorders among veterans; provides mental health care for the families of veterans; and incorporates the provisions of numerous other bills to improve veterans' care (see below), by voice vote. [The President signed the bill on October 10, 2008 \(PL 110-387\).](#)

- **Veterans Substance Abuse.** Passed H.R. 5554, Veterans Substance Abuse Treatment Act, which requires the VA to provide the full continuum of care for substance use disorders at every VA medical center, including providing drug screening, detoxification, relapse prevention and counseling for veterans, by voice vote. [Incorporated into S. 2162, which the President signed on October 10, 2008 \(PL 110-387\).](#)
- **Veterans Emergency Care.** Passed H.R. 3819, Veterans Emergency Care Reimbursement, which requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to reimburse veterans receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, [by a unanimous vote of 412-0](#), with 187 Republicans voting YEA. [Incorporated into S. 2162, which the President signed on October 10, 2008 \(PL 110-387\).](#)
- **Rural Veterans Access to Care.** Passed H.R. 1527, Rural Veterans Access to Care Act, which sets up a pilot program to allow some rural veterans to receive covered health care services through a non-VA health care provider, by a unanimous vote of 417-0, with 191 Republicans voting YEA. [Incorporated into S. 2162, which the President signed on October 10, 2008 \(PL 110-387\).](#)
- **VA Medical Construction.** Passed H.R. 5856, VA Medical Construction, which authorizes \$2.1 billion in FY 2009 for several VA medical facility construction projects, as well as for medical facility leases, [by a unanimous vote of 416-0](#), with 191 Republicans voting YEA. [Incorporated into S. 2162, which the President signed on October 10, 2008 \(PL 110-387\).](#)
- **Improving VA Home Loan Program.** Passed H.R. 6832, Veterans' Construction and Extension Act, which helps veterans get out of predatory mortgages, protects veterans from foreclosure, and offers better refinancing options through the VA home loan program, as well as authorizing certain VA medical facility projects, by voice vote. [Incorporated into S. 2162, which the President signed on October 10, 2008 \(PL 110-387\).](#)
- **Omnibus Veterans' Benefits Improvements.** Passed S. 3023, Omnibus Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act, which includes several provisions to speed up benefits' processing and improve benefits, including modernizing the disability benefits claims processing system of the VA in order to cut down on the backlog in the processing of veterans' benefits and allowing temporary disability ratings for certain veterans, by voice vote. [The President signed the bill on October 10, 2008 \(PL 110-389\).](#)
- **Veterans' Suicide Prevention.** Passed the final version of H.R. 327, Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act, which requires a comprehensive VA program to reduce suicides among veterans, including suicide prevention counselors at VA medical facilities and 24-hour mental health care for at-risk veterans, [by a unanimous vote of 417-0](#), with 191 Republicans voting YEA. [The President signed the bill on November 5, 2007 \(PL 110-110\).](#)
- **Reservist and Veterans' Small Business Programs.** Passed the final version of H.R. 4253, Reservist and Veterans Small Business Opportunity Act, which expands small business opportunities for veterans and helps military reservists keep their businesses afloat during and after deployment, by voice vote. [The President signed the bill on February 14, 2008 \(PL 110-186\).](#)

- **Veterans' COLA, Effective December 2007.** Passed H.R. 1284, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, which increases, effective December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the dependency and indemnity benefits for families of disabled veterans, by a unanimous vote of 418-0, with 194 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on November 5, 2007 (PL 110-111).*
- **Veterans' COLA, Effective December 2008.** Passed S. 2617, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, which increases, effective December 1, 2008, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the dependency and indemnity benefits for families of disabled veterans, by a unanimous vote of 418-0, with 193 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on September 24, 2008 (PL 110-324).*
- **Disabled Veterans Memorial.** Passed H.R. 995, Extending Charter for Disabled Veterans Memorial, which extends the charter for the Disabled Veterans Memorial, which expired on October 31, until 2015, allowing the time to raise the private resources and navigate the approval process to bring this memorial to life on the National Mall, by a unanimous vote of 390-0, with 188 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on October 25, 2007 (PL 110-106).*
- **Honoring Our Fallen.** Passed H.R. 692, Federal Flag Code Amendment Act, which provides that all federal buildings in a state have to comply when the governor orders the American flag lowered to half-staff in honor of soldiers killed while serving, by a bipartisan vote of 408-4, with 183 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on June 29, 2007 (PL 110-41).*
- **Expanding Housing Assistance for Homeless Veterans.** Passed H.R. 3329, Homes for Heroes Act, which requires HUD to provide at least 20,000 rental vouchers a year for homeless veterans, and creates a new supportive housing program for homeless veterans at HUD, by a bipartisan vote of 412-9, with 181 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*

Iraq, Afghanistan & Related Issues

- **First Version of FY 2007 Emergency Supplemental.** Passed the conference report on H.R. 1591, FY 2007 Supplemental, which would have fully funded our troops; honored our veterans by providing crucial health care and other services; held the Iraqi government accountable; provided a responsible timetable for the redeployment of U.S. troops; and strengthened our military, including adding \$2 billion for a Strategic Reserve Readiness Fund, by a vote of 218-208. The measure also included a minimum wage increase, Gulf Coast recovery, children's health care, etc. *The President vetoed the bill on May 1, 2007.*
- **Revised Version of FY 2007 Emergency Supplemental.** Passed H.R. 2206, a revised version of the FY 2007 Supplemental, which funds our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan but fails to include the tough provisions holding the Iraqi government accountable and providing a responsible timetable for the redeployment of U.S. troops contained in the earlier version. However, in this bill, the President was forced to abandon his threat to veto any bill containing accountability – agreeing to 18 benchmarks and a potential cut-off of reconstruction aid if progress is not made toward meeting them. The measure also includes a minimum wage increase, children's health care, etc. *The President signed the bill on May 25, 2007 (PL 110-28).*
- **FY 2008 Emergency Supplemental.** Passed H.R. 2642, the FY 2008 Emergency Supplemental, which provides funds for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan through the summer of 2009, but also

includes funding for several critical priorities, including the new GI Bill, extended unemployment benefits, \$2.65 billion for urgent disaster relief for the Midwest, provisions blocking six damaging Medicaid provisions, funding for Gulf Coast Recovery, and several other priorities. *The President signed the bill on June 30, 2008 (PL 110-252).*

- **Responsible Timeline for Redeployment of U.S. Troops from Iraq.** Passed H.R. 4156, Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act, which contained provisions to require a new direction in Iraq by requiring the President to responsibly redeploy our troops, by a vote of 218-203. Specifically, the bill provided a bridge fund of \$50 billion for the Iraq war, but required the redeployment of our troops to begin within 30 days, with a goal of completion of the redeployment by December 15, 2008. (Ultimately, a bridge fund for the Iraq War of \$70 billion was included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.) *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Responsible Timeline for Redeployment of U.S. Troops from Iraq.** Passed H.R. 2956, Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act, which requires a responsible redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq beginning within 120 days of enactment and ending by April 1, 2008 and requires the President to publicly justify post-redeployment missions for the U.S. military, by a vote of 223-201. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Report on Planning for Redeployment of our Troops from Iraq.** Passed H.R. 3087, Planning for Redeployment from Iraq, which requires the Bush Administration to report to Congress in 60 days – and every 90 days thereafter – on the status of planning for the redeployment of our troops from Iraq, by a bipartisan vote of 377-46, with 181 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Responsible Troop Deployment Cycles.** Passed H.R. 3159, Responsible Troop Deployment Cycles, which is based on Sen. Jim Webb’s bill and enhances national security and supports our troops and their families by increasing the time troops are at home between deployments to Iraq, by a vote of 229-194. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Holding Private Security Contractors Accountable.** Passed H.R. 2740, Holding Security Contractors in War Zones Overseas Accountable, which closes a loophole in current law in order to ensure that all U.S. private security contractors – such as Blackwater contractors – in Iraq and other war zones overseas will be held accountable for any criminal behavior, by a bipartisan vote of 389-30, with 164 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Preventing War Profiteering.** Passed H.R. 400, War Profiteering Prevention Act, which cracks down on those U.S. contractors who have taken advantage of the war situations in Iraq and Afghanistan to attempt to defraud the U.S. government by overcharging for goods and services, by a bipartisan vote of 375-3, with 169 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Corruption in the Iraqi Government.** Passed H.Res. 734, Condemning Withholding Information on Iraqi Corruption, which condemns the State Department for withholding information about corruption in the Iraqi government from Congress, by a bipartisan vote of 395-21, with 171 Republicans voting YEA.

Homeland Security/Intelligence

- **9/11 Commission’s Recommendations.** Passed the conference report on H.R. 1, which implements the unfulfilled recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, including

improvements in border security, port security, and aviation security, by a bipartisan vote of 371-40, with 150 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President signed the bill on August 3, 2007 \(PL 110-53\).*](#)

- **FY 2008 Homeland Security Authorization.** Passed H.R. 1684, FY 2008 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Authorization, which authorizes \$39.8 billion for the activities of DHS in FY 2008 and includes strong accountability measures, by a bipartisan vote of 296-126, with 73 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President threatened to veto.*](#)
- **FY 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations.** Passed H.R. 2638, FY 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations, which funds an additional 3,000 Border Patrol agents, provides first responders with the equipment and training they need, and tougher aviation and port security, by a vote of 268-150, with 45 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President threatened to veto.*](#) (The final Homeland Security Appropriations provisions were included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.)
- **FY 2009 Homeland Security Appropriations.** Passed FY 2009 Homeland Security Appropriations (as part of H.R. 2638, a consolidated appropriations bill), which funds an additional 2,200 Border Patrol agents, provides first responders with the equipment and training they need, and tougher aviation and port security, by a bipartisan vote of 370-58, with 146 Republicans voting YEA. [*Included in H.R. 2638, Consolidated Appropriations, which the President signed on September 30, 2008 \(PL 110-329\).*](#)
- **Coast Guard Authorization.** Passed H.R. 2830, Coast Guard Authorization, which strengthens the Coast Guard's ability to carry out its homeland security missions, including establishing an Assistant Commandant for Port and Waterways Security by a bipartisan vote of 395-7, with 175 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President threatened to veto.*](#)
- **Rail & Transit Security.** Passed H.R. 1401, Rail and Mass Transit Security Act, which requires the Department of Homeland Security to develop plans to protect rail and mass transit and authorizes \$6 billion over 4 years in grants to protect these systems, by a bipartisan vote of 299-124, with 74 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President threatened to veto.*](#)
- **Dubai Ports.** Passed the Senate amendments to H.R. 556, National Security FIRST Act, clearing it for the President, which responds to the Dubai Ports World scandal of 2006, by working to prevent foreign investments in U.S. key infrastructure that would endanger our national security from being approved, by a bipartisan vote of 370-45, with 195 Republicans voting YEA. [*The President signed the bill on July 26, 2007 \(PL 110-49\).*](#)
- **Preventing Homegrown Terrorism.** Passed H.R. 1955, Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act, which creates a National Commission to make recommendations on how to prevent violent radicalization and homegrown terrorism here in the U.S. and a "Center of Excellence" at a university to do in-depth studies of the problems of violent radicalization and homegrown terrorism, by a bipartisan vote of 404-6, with 185 Republicans voting YEA.
- **FY 2008 Intelligence Authorization.** Passed the conference report on H.R. 2082, FY 2008 Intelligence Authorization, which authorizes "the largest amount for intelligence programs ever authorized," makes key investments to strengthen intelligence, and promotes efficiency and effectiveness in intelligence programs, by a vote of 225-197. [*The President vetoed the bill on March 8, 2008.*](#)

- **FY 2009 Intelligence Authorization.** Passed H.R. 5959, FY 2009 Intelligence Authorization, which authorizes more funding for the base intelligence budget than ever before, makes key investments to strengthen intelligence (including human intelligence collection), and promotes greater accountability and oversight, by voice vote. *The President threatened to veto.*

Small Business

- **Federal Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses.** Passed H.R. 3867, Small Business Contracting Program Improvements Act, which makes critical changes to the SBA's federal contracting programs that will open up new opportunities for small businesses, including veteran- and minority-owned firms, by a bipartisan vote of 334-80, with 109 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Improving Small Business Lending.** Passed H.R. 1332, Small Business Lending Improvements Act, which provides small businesses with tools to encourage entrepreneurial innovation, including making 7(a) loans more economical, by a bipartisan vote of 380-45, with 151 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Small Business Investment Expansion.** Passed H.R. 3567, Small Business Investment Expansion, which reforms SBA programs to assist small business owners with obtaining investment capital necessary to start or grow their operations and improves access to venture capital and angel investments for these entrepreneurs, by a bipartisan vote of 325-72, with 112 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Fairness in Small Business Contracting.** Passed H.R. 1873, Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act, which strengthens small business by ensuring an increased share of federal contracts going to small businesses and limiting the ability of federal agencies to bundle smaller projects into larger contracts, by a bipartisan vote of 409-13, with 187 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Small Business Innovation Research.** Passed H.R. 5819, SBIR/STTR Reauthorization, which extends for two years and improves the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs – which are small business R&D programs – including by increasing funding for small research firms by half a billion dollars, by a bipartisan vote of 368-43, with 149 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Reforming SBA Disaster Aid Program.** Passed H.R. 1361, SBA Disaster Aid Overhaul, which overhauls the SBA disaster assistance program in response to the SBA's disastrous performance after the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes, by a vote of 267-158, with 40 Republicans voting YEA.

Innovation

- **Innovation Agenda/Math & Science Teachers.** Passed H.R. 362, Science and Math Scholarship Act, which invests in 10,000 new science, math and technology teachers in the first year, totaling some 25,000 new teachers over 5 years, by a bipartisan vote of 389-22, with 168 Republicans voting YEA. *Incorporated into H.R. 2272, America COMPETES Act, which the President signed on August 9, 2007 (PL 110-69).*
- **Innovation Agenda/Technology Innovation.** Passed H.R. 1868, Technology Innovation Act, which creates the Technology Innovation Program, to provide funds to small high-tech firms, and reauthorizes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which stimulates investments in innovative technologies by small manufacturers, by a bipartisan vote of 385-23, with 164 Republicans voting

YEA. [Incorporated into H.R. 2272, America COMPETES Act, which the President signed on August 9, 2007 \(PL 110-69\).](#)

- **Innovation Agenda/Basic Research Funding.** Passed H.R. 1867, National Science Foundation Authorization, which puts us on a path to doubling funding for NSF basic research over the next 10 years, as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences, by a bipartisan vote of 399-17, with 175 Republicans voting YEA. [Incorporated into H.R. 2272, America COMPETES Act, which the President signed on August 9, 2007 \(PL 110-69\).](#)
- **Innovation Agenda/Science & Engineering Research.** Passed H.R. 363, Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act, which increases support for long-term scientific research and focuses on high-risk, high-reward early stage research, by a bipartisan vote of 380-45, with 172 Republicans voting YEA. [Incorporated into H.R. 2272, America COMPETES Act, which the President signed on August 9, 2007 \(PL 110-69\).](#)
- **Innovation Agenda/High-Performance Computing.** Passed H.R. 1068, Maintaining U.S. Leadership in High-Performance Computing, which helps strengthen U.S. leadership in high-performance computing and provides support for cutting-edge research to drive information technology into the future, by voice vote. [Incorporated into H.R. 2272, American COMPETES Act, which the President signed on August 9, 2007 \(PL 110-69\).](#)
- **Promoting Nanotechnology.** Passed H.R. 5940, National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments, which reauthorizes the National Nanotechnology Initiative and establishes nanotechnology education partnerships to recruit and prepare students to pursue postsecondary education in nanotechnology, by a bipartisan vote of 407-6, with 184 Republicans voting YEA.
- **NASA Authorization.** Passed the final version of H.R. 6063, NASA Authorization, which authorizes NASA for FY 2009 and makes key investments in innovation, including a significant increase over the President's request for scientific research (including climate change research) and a significant increase in aeronautics R&D, in order to ensure safer and more efficient air travel, by voice vote. [The President signed the bill on October 15, 2008 \(PL 110-422\).](#)

Child Safety

- **Child Safety/Pool and Spa Safety Act.** Passed H.R. 1721, Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Act, which protects children from drowning by requiring the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers in pools and spas, by voice vote. [\(These provisions were added onto the Energy Independence and Security bill, which the President signed on December 19, 2007 \(PL 110-140\).](#)
- **Child Safety/Missing and Exploited Children.** Passed H.R. 2517, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) Reauthorization, which reauthorizes the Center for five years, doubling funding to \$40 million per year, and boosts the Center's coordination with federal, state and local law enforcement, including the creation of an emergency child locator center, by a bipartisan vote of 408-3, with 185 Republicans voting YEA. [The President signed the bill on June 3, 2008 \(PL 110-240\).](#)
- **Child Safety/Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention.** Passed H.R. 814, Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act, which protects children from death or serious injury from burn hazards, by requiring the same child-resistant caps for all gasoline containers, whether sold with or without gasoline, by voice vote. [The President signed the bill on July 17, 2008 \(PL 110-278\).](#)

- **Expanding Adoption Incentives and Improving Foster Care.** Passed H.R. 6893, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, which includes the most comprehensive overhaul of the adoption incentives program in a decade, including doubling the amount states receive for adoption completions, and important reforms in the foster care system, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 7, 2008 (PL 110-351).*
- **Child Safety on Internet/PROTECT Our Children Act.** Passed S. 1738, PROTECT Our Children Act, which requires the Attorney General to develop a national strategy to fight child exploitation on the Internet and authorizes \$300 million over the next five years for 50 Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, with trained investigators, across the country, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 13, 2008 (PL 110-401).*
- **Child Safety on Internet/KIDS Act.** Passed S. 431, Keeping the Internet Devoid of Sexual Predators (KIDS) Act, which requires sex offenders to register their e-mail and instant messenger addresses with the National Sex Offender Registry, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 13, 2008 (PL 110-400).*
- **Child Safety on Internet/SAFER NET Act.** Passed H.R. 3461, SAFER NET Act, which creates the first-ever national Internet Safety campaign for children, requiring FTC to spend \$5 million increasing awareness about Internet safety issues for children, by a bipartisan vote of 398-6, with 184 Republicans voting YEA. *The bill was incorporated into S. 1492, Broadband Data Improvement Act, which the President signed on October 10, 2008 (PL 110-385).*
- **Child Safety on Internet/More Effective Child Pornography Prosecutions.** Passed the final version of H.R. 4120, Effective Child Pornography Prosecution Act, which amends existing law so that federal prosecutors do not have to prove interstate transmission in cases of child pornography on the Internet, by a unanimous vote of 418-0, with 192 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on October 8, 2008 (PL 110-358).*
- **Child Safety on Internet/Enhancing Prosecution of Child Pornography.** Passed H.R. 4136, Enhancing the Effective Prosecution of Child Pornography Act, which allows federal money laundering laws to be applied in some cases involving the production of child pornography, by a unanimous vote of 416-0, with 192 Republicans voting YEA. *The bill was incorporated into H.R. 4120, Effective Child Pornography Prosecution Act, which the President signed on October 8, 2008 (PL 110-358).*
- **Child Safety on Internet/Internet Crime Prevention.** Passed 4134, Internet Crime Prevention Education Program Act, which authorizes funding to continue the successful i-Safe program, which has provided online safety education for more than 3 million children in all 50 states, by voice vote.
- **Child Safety on Internet/SAFE Online Act.** Passed H.R. 3791, SAFE (Securing Adolescents from Exploitation) Online Act, which increases the penalties for service providers that host child pornography on their servers, by a bipartisan vote of 409-2, with 185 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Stopping Abuse of Teens in Residential Programs.** Passed H.R. 6358, Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act, which creates new national standards for residential programs that focus on serving teens with emotional, behavioral or mental health problems, or problems with alcohol and substance abuse, by a bipartisan vote of 318-103, with 89 Republicans voting YEA.

Labor

- **Free Choice for Employees.** Passed H.R. 800, the Employee Free Choice Act, which helps all Americans share in our nation's economic growth by supporting the basic right of workers to choose their own representative, by a vote of 241-185. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Collective Bargaining for Firefighters, Police Officers, Etc.** Passed H.R. 980, Collective Bargaining for First Responders, which provides firefighters, police officers, and other public safety officers with basic collective bargaining rights, without undermining state authority or existing state laws – ensuring our first responders have the basic right to seek better wages and benefits, by a bipartisan vote of 314-97, with 98 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Employment Non-Discrimination Act.** Passed H.R. 3685, Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which makes it illegal to fire, refuse to hire, or otherwise discriminate against employees simply based on their sexual orientation, by a vote of 235-184, with 35 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Protecting Workers from Explosions.** Passed H.R. 5522, Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosions and Fires Act, which is designed to prevent combustible dust explosions like the one that killed 13 workers in Georgia in February by requiring OSHA to issue rules regulating combustible industrial dusts, like sugar dust, that can build up to hazardous levels and explode, by a vote of 247-165, with 22 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Improving Miner Safety.** Passed H.R. 2768, the S-MINER Act, which provides a comprehensive approach to improve the safety of America's miners – including preventing mining disasters, improving emergency response, and reducing long-term health risks, by a vote of 214-199. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave.** Passed H.R. 5781, Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, which provides four weeks of paid parental leave for federal employees for the birth or adoption of a child and in addition allows them to use any accrued annual or sick leave for parental leave, up to eight weeks, by a vote of 278-146, with 50 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*

Environment/Public Lands

- **Omnibus Public Lands.** Passed S. 2739, Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which is an omnibus public lands bill that provides for new protections for wilderness, national parks, and historic sites and trails across the country – including creating a 100,000 acre “Wild Sky Wilderness” in the State of Washington, by a bipartisan vote of 291-117, with 70 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on May 8, 2008 (PL 110-229).*
- **Clean Water.** Passed H.R. 720, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which provides a recommitment to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, by authorizing \$14 billion over the next four years, which helps local communities have clean lakes and streams, as well as safe drinking water, by a bipartisan vote of 303-108, with 79 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*

- **Protecting the Great Lakes.** Passed S.J.Res. 45, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact, which is an eight-state water management agreement that protects the nation's largest fresh water resource, the Great Lakes – preventing any state and the two adjacent Canadian provinces from diverting water out of the Great Lakes basin without the consent of the eight surrounding states, by a bipartisan vote of 390-25, with 185 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on October 3, 2008 (PL 110-342).*
- **Mercury Export Ban.** Passed S. 906, Mercury Export Ban Act, which bans the export of mercury from the United States, thereby removing a significant amount of mercury from the global market and lessening the threat this dangerous substance poses to the world's most vulnerable citizens, by a bipartisan vote of 393-5, with 170 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on October 14, 2008 (PL 110-414).*
- **Landscape Conservation.** Passed H.R. 2016, National Landscape Conservation System Act, which codifies the already-functioning National Landscape Conservation System, comprising approximately 27 million acres of areas considered to have significant historical, cultural, ecological, scientific or scenic value, by a vote of 278-140, with 50 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Sewer Overflow Controls.** Passed H.R. 569, Sewer Overflow Control Grants, which responds to the growing public health hazard of sewer overflows by authorizing \$1.8 billion for sewer overflow grants over the next five years, by a bipartisan vote of 367-58, with 139 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Usable Water Supply.** Passed H.R. 700, Pilot Projects for Increasing Usable Water Supply, which authorizes pilot projects to increase an area's usable water supply – by encouraging innovation in water reclamation, reuse and conservation, by a bipartisan vote of 368-59, with 138 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Beach Protection Act.** Passed H.R. 2537, Beach Protection Act, which requires tough new beach water quality testing standards and public notification standards so beachgoers are better informed about the safety of their beaches, by voice vote.

Law Enforcement/Judiciary

- **Background Checks for Gun Purchases.** Passed H.R. 2640, NICS Improvement Act, which improves the accuracy of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) by giving grants to states for automating and sharing with NICS the records of those barred from purchasing a firearm under the 1968 Gun Control Act, including those involuntarily confined by a mental institution, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on January 8, 2008 (PL 110-180).*
- **Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG).** Passed S. 231, Byrne JAG Program Reauthorization Act, which reauthorizes the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants program, which provides grants to assist local law enforcement, with a focus on violent crime and serious offenders, at \$1.1 billion annually through FY 2012, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on July 30, 2008 (PL 110-294).*
- **COPS Improvement Act.** Passed H.R. 1700, COPS Improvement Act, which puts 50,000 additional police officers on the streets over the next six years, and also authorizes funds for COPS technology grants and for hiring community prosecutors, by a bipartisan vote of 381-34, with 157 Republicans voting YEA.

- **Hate Crimes.** Passed H.R. 1592, Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which gives state and local law enforcement the tools and resources they need to prevent and prosecute hate crimes, as well as closing gaps in current federal hate crimes law, by a vote of 237-180, with 25 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **“Meth” Production Prevention.** Passed S. 1276, Methamphetamine Production Prevention Act, which takes the next step towards wiping out domestic production of methamphetamine or “meth,” by making it easier to use electronic logbook systems in order to monitor sales of meth precursor drugs and notify enforcement agencies when individuals illegally stockpile these precursors, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 14, 2008 (PL 110-415).*
- **Drug-Endangered Children.** Passed H.R. 1199, Drug-Endangered Children Act, which extends the authorization of the Drug-Endangered Children Program, which is designed to help children who are in dangerous, drug-infested environments to transition into safe residential environments, by a bipartisan vote of 389-4, with 180 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on October 7, 2008 (PL 110-345).*
- **Runaway and Homeless Youth.** Passed S. 2982, Runaway and Homeless Youth Protection Act, which expands and improves the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, which provides critical services to the 1 million young people who find themselves homeless or unaccompanied each year, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 8, 2008 (PL 110-378).*
- **Mentally Ill Offender Treatment.** Passed S. 2304, Mentally Ill Offender Treatment Reauthorization, which expands and improves the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment Program, including creating new grant programs designed to provide the mentally ill with services that can prevent them from ending up in jail, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 14, 2008 (PL 110-416).*

Foreign Affairs

- **Sudan Accountability (Darfur Crisis).** Passed S. 2271, Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act, which bars federal contracts with companies doing business with the Sudanese government and authorizes state and local governments to divest from Sudan, by a unanimous vote of 411-0, with 190 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on December 31, 2007 (PL 110-174).*
- **One-Year Extension of Sanctions Against Burma.** Passed H.J.Res. 44, Extending Sanctions Against Burma, which extends for another year the ban on U.S. imports from Burma in order to continue protesting Burma’s oppressive military regime and its reprehensible record of massive human rights abuses, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on August 1, 2007 (PL 110-52).*
- **Strengthening Sanctions Against Burma.** Passed H.R. 3890, Burma Democracy Promotion Act, which waives the requirement for an annual renewal of the ban on U.S. imports from Burma (making the renewal automatic); imposes more sanctions to ensure the effective banning of imports of Burmese gemstones, and expands the number of individuals against whom the visa ban is applicable, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on July 29, 2008 (PL 110-286).*
- **Congressional Gold Medal for Burmese Dissident Aung San Suu Kyi.** Passed H.R. 4286, Congressional Gold Medal for Aung San Suu Kyi, which awards the heroic Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights

and democracy in Burma, by a unanimous vote of 400-0, with 184 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on May 6, 2008 (PL 110-209).*

- **U.S.-India Nuclear Energy Pact.** Passed H.R. 7081, U.S.-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act, which grants congressional approval to a nuclear cooperation agreement signed with India under which the United States will help that country in the development of its nuclear energy industry and which provides nonproliferation safeguards, by a bipartisan vote of 298-117, with 178 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on October 8, 2008 (PL 110-369).*
- **Refugee Aid and Human Rights in North Korea.** Passed the final version of H.R. 5834, North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act, which authorizes \$20 million a year for four years for humanitarian assistance for North Korean refugees and \$4 million a year for four years for North Korean human rights and democracy programs, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 7, 2008 (PL 110-346).*
- **Lawsuits by POWs During Gulf War Against Iraq.** Passed H.R. 5167, Justice for Victims of Torture and Terrorism Act, which allows former prisoners of war to sue the Iraqi government for torture or abuse they suffered during the 1991 Gulf War, by voice vote. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **International Debt Relief.** Passed H.R. 2634, Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation Act, which directs the Bush Administration to begin negotiations for an agreement within the World Bank and IMF to allow up to 24 additional low-income countries to qualify for debt relief, by a bipartisan vote of 285-132, with 69 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Security Assistance Amendments.** Passed H.R. 5916, Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act, which authorizes the President to waive certain provisions in current law to permit U.S. assistance to North Korea in dismantling its nuclear facilities; requires the U.S. government to conduct objective assessments of Israel's military capabilities, while authorizing increased military assistance to Israel; and other provisions, by voice vote.
- **OPIC Reauthorization.** Passed H.R. 2798, OPIC Reauthorization, which reauthorizes through FY 2011 the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), which is an independent federal agency that directs private capital to developing countries by offering American businesses and lenders political risk insurance and investment financing, by voice vote.
- **Combating International Drug Trafficking.** Passed H.R. 6028, Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics Act, which authorizes funds to combat drug trafficking into the United States from Mexico and Central America, including providing funds for training and equipping security forces, and also includes provisions to bar money from military units that have violated human rights, by a bipartisan vote of 311-106, with 108 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation.** Passed H.R. 2185, Tropical Forest Conservation Act Amendments, which reauthorizes through FY 2010 the Tropical Forest Conservation program, which allows developing countries to reduce their foreign debt by protecting tropical forest land, and also extends the program to cover protecting coral reefs, by voice vote.
- **Torture Victims Relief.** Passed H.R. 1678, Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization, which authorizes \$50 million over two years for domestic treatment centers for torture survivors through

the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement and \$24 million over two years for foreign treatment centers, by a bipartisan vote of 418-7, with 189 Republicans voting YEA.

Restoring Accountability

- **Pay-As-You-Go Budget Rules.** Passed Title IV of H.Res. 6, Honest Leadership Package, which re-imposes strict pay-as-you-go budget rules to end new deficit spending, by a vote of 280-152, with 48 Republicans voting YEA. *No presidential signature required.*
- **FY 2008 Fiscally Responsible Budget.** Passed conference report on S.Con.Res. 21, FY 2008 Budget Resolution, which balances the budget over five years, and reinvigorates efforts to eliminate wasteful spending and improve government efficiency, by a vote of 214-209. *No presidential signature required.*
- **FY 2009 Fiscally Responsible Budget.** Passed conference report on S.Con.Res. 70, FY 2009 Budget Resolution, which balances the budget over four years, and reinvigorates efforts to eliminate wasteful spending and improve government efficiency, by a vote of 214-210. (The Republican-controlled Congress had failed to adopt a budget conference report in every election year since 2000.) *No presidential signature required.*
- **Comprehensive Lobbying and Ethics Reform.** Passed the conference report on S. 1, Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, which is the most sweeping lobbying reform measure in a generation and is designed to help end the tight-knit relationship between lobbyists and lawmakers, including increasing disclosure of lobbyists' contributions to lawmakers and establishing an online public database of lobbyist disclosure information, by a bipartisan vote of 411-8, with 190 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on September 14, 2007 (PL 110-81).*
- **Ethics Reform in House Rules.** Passed Title II of H.Res. 6, Honest Leadership Package, which includes an ethics reform package, including banning gifts and travel from lobbyists and the organizations that employ them and ending the influence-for-hire K Street Project, by a bipartisan vote of 430-1, with 198 Republicans voting YEA. *No presidential signature required.*
- **Office of Congressional Ethics.** Passed H.Res. 895, Office of Congressional Ethics, which establishes an historic, new Office of Congressional Ethics, within the House of Representatives, providing an independent review of alleged ethics violations by Members of Congress, by a vote of 229-182, with 33 Republicans voting YEA. *No presidential signature required.*
- **Enhancing Effectiveness and Independence of Inspectors General.** Passed the final version of H.R. 928, Improving Government Accountability Act, which contains a number of provisions to enhance the effectiveness and independence of Inspectors General, which are the principal watchdogs to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in their agencies' programs, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 14, 2008 (PL 110-409).*
- **Protecting Taxpayers with Database on Integrity of Federal Contractors.** Passed H.R. 3033, Contractors and Federal Spending Accountability Act, which creates a comprehensive, centralized database that will list civil, criminal and administrative proceedings concluded by federal and state governments against federal contractors, in order to track fraudulent contractors, by voice vote. *Somewhat modified version of this bill was included in S. 3001, FY 2009 Defense Authorization, which the President signed on October 14, 2008 (PL 110-417).*

- **Strengthening Freedom of Information Act.** Passed H.R. S. 2488, OPEN Government Act, which strengthens the Freedom of Information Act to better protect the public's right to know and make the government more transparent, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on December 31, 2007 (PL 110-175).*
- **Pensions of Convicted Members.** Passed H.R. 476, Congressional Pension Forfeiture Act, which requires Members convicted of certain federal offenses forfeit their congressional pension rights, by a unanimous vote of 431-0, with 198 Republicans voting YEA. *Incorporated into S. 1, Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, which the President signed on September 14, 2007 (PL 110-81).*
- **Reform of House Page Program.** Passed H.R. 475, House Page Board Oversight, which improves oversight of the House Page Program by requiring regular meetings of the Page Board, making it fully bipartisan, and adding a former page and the parent of a page to the board, by a unanimous vote of 416-0, with 190 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on February 2, 2007 (PL 110-2).*
- **U.S. Attorneys.** Passed S. 214, Preserving Independence of U.S. Attorneys, thereby clearing the bill for the President, which better ensures the independence of U.S. attorneys, by repealing a 2006 provision allowing the Attorney General to make indefinite interim appointments of U.S. attorneys, by a bipartisan vote of 306-114, with 80 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on June 14, 2007 (PL 110-34).*
- **Reducing Passport Backlog.** Passed S. 966, Passport Backlog Reduction Act, which authorizes hiring retired passport processors in order to deal with the fact that the Bush Administration has created a crisis for American travelers by failing to provide the personnel needed to meet the new passport requirements for travel in the Western Hemisphere, which were recommended by the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on July 30, 2007 (PL 110-50).*
- **Whistleblower Protections.** Passed H.R. 985, Whistleblower Protections Act, which strengthens protections for federal whistleblowers to prevent retaliation against those who report federal waste, fraud and abuse, by a bipartisan vote of 331-94, with 102 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Providing A Media Shield.** Passed H.R. 2102, Free Flow of Information Act, which provides a qualified privilege for journalists protecting confidential sources, while also protecting national security and effective law enforcement, by a bipartisan vote of 398-21, with 176 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Preserving E-Mails of the White House and Federal Agencies.** Passed H.R. 5811, Electronic Message Preservation Act, which requires the National Archivist to establish standards for the preservation of White House e-mails and requires the Archivist to issue regulations governing the preservation of e-mails by federal agencies, by a bipartisan vote of 286-137, with 56 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Barring Spouses from Campaign Payrolls.** Passed H.R. 2630, Barring Spouses of Candidates from Being on Campaign Payrolls, which prohibits federal office holders and candidates from

employing their spouses in their campaign and also requires the disclosure of all other immediate family members who are employed by the candidate's campaign, by voice vote.

- **Cracking Down on “No-Bid” Contracts.** Passed H.R. 1362, Accountability in Contracting Act, which cleans up government contracting abuses and “no bid” contracts that companies like Halliburton and KBR have made infamous, by a bipartisan vote of 347-73, with 119 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Withholding Federal Contracts from Tax-Delinquent Companies.** Passed H.R. 4881, Contracting and Tax Accountability Act, which withholds most federal contracts from corporations that are delinquent on their federal taxes (with the Government Accountability Office reporting that 60,000 federal contractors currently owe \$7.7 billion in back taxes), by voice vote.
- **Closing Contractor Fraud Loophole.** Passed H.R. 5712, Close the Contractor Fraud Loophole, which closes a loophole in a proposed federal rule so that mandatory fraud reporting requirements would apply to U.S. contractors working overseas (such as those working in Iraq) as well as to contractors working here at home, by voice vote.
- **Disclosing Executive Compensation of Certain Federal Contractors.** Passed H.R. 3928, Government Contractor Accountability Act, which requires all companies that receive more than 80 percent of their annual gross revenue from federal funds to disclose the salaries of their most highly compensated officers, by voice vote.
- **Corporate Accountability.** Passed H.R. 1257, Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, which enhances the accountability of corporate management to shareholders, by allowing a non-binding vote by shareholders on executive compensation plans, by a bipartisan vote of 267-134, with 55 Republicans voting YEA.
- **Strengthening Taxpayer Protections.** Passed H.R. 5719, Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act, which strengthens taxpayer protections from identity theft and tax fraud, stops taxpayer harassment by ending the private collection of federal taxes, and stops federal contractors from using foreign subsidiaries to evade Social Security and Medicare taxes, by a vote of 238-179, with 14 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Ending Use of Private Tax Collectors.** Passed H.R. 3056, Tax Collection Responsibility Act, which strengthens government accountability and stops taxpayer harassment by repealing the Internal Revenue Service's authorization to use private collectors to collect federal income taxes, by a vote of 232-173, with 22 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Protecting U.S. Taxpayers through Mining Reform.** Passed H.R. 2262, Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act, which stands up for the U.S. taxpayer by requiring operators of mining operations on federal lands, which are owned by U.S. taxpayers, to pay royalty payments for the first time, by a vote of 244-166, with 24 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Disclosure of Presidential Records.** Passed H.R. 1255, Disclosure of Presidential Records, which restores public access to former presidents' official papers, nullifying a 2001 executive order that gave current and former presidents (and their heirs) broad authority to withhold official presidential documents, by a bipartisan vote of 333-93, with 104 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*

Appropriations

- **Continuing Resolution for FY 2007.** Passed H.J.Res. 20, Continuing Resolution for FY 2007, which kept within the FY 2007 budget ceiling created by Republicans but which invested in urgent domestic needs, including an increase of \$3.6 billion for veterans' health care, \$1.4 billion for affordable housing, and \$615 million for increasing the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,050 to \$4,310, by a bipartisan vote of 286-140, with 57 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on February 15, 2007 (PL 110-5).*
- **FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill.** Passed H.R. 2764, FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which contains 11 of the 12 FY 2008 appropriations bills and rejects many of the President's budget cuts and begins to reinvest in the American people's priorities such as medical research, education and energy independence, while conforming to the President's discretionary ceiling, by a vote of 253-154, with 41 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on December 26, 2007 (PL 110-161).*
- **Continuing Resolution for FY 2009.** Passed a Continuing Resolution for FY 2009 (as part of H.R. 2638, a consolidated appropriations bill), which funds many government operations at last year's levels through March 6, 2009; provides \$2.5 billion above FY 2008 to help families pay rising home energy bills (helping an additional 2 million households), and provides \$7.5 billion to support \$25 billion in loans to help American automakers to update their factories in order to build more fuel-efficient cars and trucks, by a bipartisan vote of 370-58, with 146 Republicans voting YEA. *Included in H.R. 2638, Consolidated Appropriations, which the President signed on September 30, 2008 (PL 110-329).*
- **Disaster Relief Package.** Passed a Disaster Relief Package (as part of H.R. 2638, a consolidated appropriations bill), which provides \$22.9 billion for disaster relief, in order to help communities impacted by Hurricane Ike and other hurricanes, severe flooding in the Midwest, severe wildfires in the West, and other disasters, by a bipartisan vote of 370-58, with 146 Republicans voting YEA. *Included in H.R. 2638, Consolidated Appropriations, which the President signed on September 30, 2008 (PL 110-329).*
- **Investing in Health Care and Education.** Concurred in the Senate amendment to the conference report on H.R. 3043, FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, which (along with mandatory spending in another bill) makes college more affordable by increasing the maximum Pell Grant by \$615, up to \$4,925; invests \$1.6 billion more in No Child Left Behind programs, giving an additional 117,000 low-income children help with reading and math; and provides an additional for the life-saving medical research at NIH, by a bipartisan vote of 274-141, with 51 Republicans voting YEA. *The President vetoed the bill on November 13.* (The final Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations provisions were included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.)
- **Investing in Small Business/Economic Development/Etc.** Passed H.R. 2829, FY 2008 Financial Services-General Government Appropriations, which contains provisions to spur job creation and economic growth, including restoring the President's cut in small business loans and investing in greater efforts to expand availability to capital and financial services in rural communities, by a vote of 240-179, with 18 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.* (The final Financial Services-General Government Appropriations provisions were included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.)

- **Investing in Transportation Infrastructure and Affordable Housing.** Passed the conference report on H.R. 3074, FY 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations, which modernizes transportation, including providing \$40.2 billion for highway infrastructure, creating 100,000 new jobs, and providing \$9.7 billion for mass transit; and invests in expanding affordable housing opportunities for American families, by a vote of 270-147, with 45 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President threatened to veto.*** (The final Transportation-HUD Appropriations provisions were included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.)
- **Investing in Rural Development.** Passed H.R. 3161, FY 2008 Agriculture Appropriations, which has numerous provisions to strengthen our rural communities, including reinvesting in affordable housing, clean water, broadband access, and community facilities in rural areas; improve nutrition programs; and promote renewable energy and conservation in rural America, by a vote of 237-18. ***The President threatened to veto.*** (The final Agriculture Appropriations were included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.)
- **Investing in Innovation and Science.** Passed H.R. 3093, FY 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations, which makes major investments in U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness, including Manufacturing Extension Partnerships and the Advanced Technology Program, and in scientific research, putting the NSF on track to double in funding over next 10 years, by a bipartisan vote of 281-142, with 55 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President threatened to veto.*** (The final Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations provisions were included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.)
- **State-Foreign Operations Appropriations.** Passed H.R. 2764, FY 2008 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations, which supports our allies in the campaign against terrorism, including providing over \$1 billion in aid to Afghanistan; and promotes stability by strengthening development aid and addressing crises such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic, by a vote of 241-178, with 31 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President threatened to veto.*** (The final State-Foreign Operations Appropriations provisions were included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.)
- **Energy-Water Appropriations.** Passed H.R. 2641, FY 2008 Energy-Water Appropriations, which invests \$3 billion, \$1 billion more than the President's request, to research global warming and take steps to reduce it, and includes a 50 percent increase over the President's request for energy efficiency and renewable energy, including solar, wind and biofuels, by a bipartisan vote of 312-112, with 86 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President threatened to veto.*** (The final Energy-Water Appropriations provisions were included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.)
- **Interior-Environment Appropriations.** Passed H.R. 2643, FY 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations, which fully funds the Clean Water Fund that the President proposed cutting by 37 percent, makes improving our national parks, national wildlife refuges, and national forests a key priority, and boosts basic research on climate change by 53 percent, by a vote of 272-155, with 48 Republicans voting YEA. ***The President threatened to veto.*** (The final Interior-Environment Appropriations provisions were included in the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriations bill.)

Miscellaneous

- **Expedited Naturalization for Service Members.** Passed S. 2840, Military Personnel Citizenship Processing Act, which expedites the naturalization applications filed by members of the Armed Forces and establishes a deadline for processing such applications, by a unanimous vote of 416-0,

with 192 Republicans voting YEA. *The President signed the bill on October 9, 2008 (PL 110-382).*

- **Visas for Religious Workers.** Passed S. 3606, Religious Worker Visa Short-Term Extension Act, which extends the religious worker visa program, which allows churches, synagogues and mosques to sponsor qualified foreigners to fill non-ministerial religious jobs, through March 6, 2009, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on October 10, 2008 (PL 110-391).*
- **Expanding “911” to Cover Internet Calls.** Passed H.R. 3403, NET 911 Improvement Act, which ensures that consumers using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone service can make full use of the “911” emergency system, by voice vote. *The President signed the bill on July 23, 2008 (PL 110-283.)*
- **Native Hawaiian Governing Entity.** Passed H.R. 505, Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, under which Native Hawaiians can establish a “governing entity” that would represent them in negotiations with federal and state governments, by a vote of 261-153, with 39 Republicans voting YEA. *The President threatened to veto.*
- **Coin Modernization.** Passed H.R. 5512, Coin Modernization and Taxpayer Savings Act, which changes the mix of metals used to produce pennies and nickels in order to address the dramatic rise in metal prices and to reduce the costs of production, by voice vote.

October 20, 2008