

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 5, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I hereby concur with Congress in the designation of \$25.856 billion provided as part of the Department of Defense Appropriations, FY 2005 (H.R. 4613), as an emergency requirement.

These funds are necessary to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the Department of State's Mission in Iraq, State and local law enforcement assistance for security and related costs associated with the 2004 Presidential Candidate Nominating Conventions, the Judiciary, and to respond to the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Additional information on this action is set forth in the attached letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dennis Hastert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Enclosures



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

August 4, 2004

The President
The White House

I recommend that you concur with Congress in the designation of the provisions included in Title IX and chapters 1 and 2 of Title X of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, FY 2005 (H.R. 4613), as emergency requirements. A strong case exists for each of these requirements to be designated as an emergency requirement.

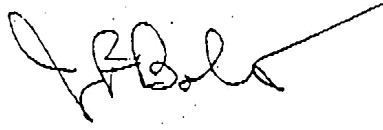
These emergency designations include \$25 billion for additional war-related appropriations for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, of which \$3.8 billion would be made available to the Iraq Freedom Fund. In addition, emergency designations, totaling \$856 million in FY 2004, are made for: the Department of State's Mission in Iraq (\$685 million); the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan (\$95 million), State and local law enforcement assistance for security and related costs associated with the 2004 Presidential Candidate Nominating Conventions (\$50 million), and the Judiciary (\$26 million).

Section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, as amended by the Budget Enforcement Act, set annual discretionary spending limits, which expired at the end of FY 2002. This section included a provision that stated that the spending limits should be adjusted to reflect appropriations designated as emergency requirements by both the Congress and the President. On April 2, 2004, the Administration submitted to Congress a legislative proposal, the Spending Control Act of 2004, which would restore key provisions of the Balanced Budget and Deficit Control Act including continuing the discretionary spending limits, and exempting mutually agreed upon emergency designations from these limits. In the absence of enactment of this or similar proposals, there currently are no statutory restrictions on emergency spending designations.

Therefore, consistent with the need for responsible spending restraint, the Administration will continue to urge the Congress to fully fund unavoidable obligations and will insist that no emergency funding, including contingent emergency funding, be designated unless mutually agreed upon in advance by both the Congress and your Administration.

I recommend that you concur with the designation of these provisions as emergency requirements, and sign the enclosed letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives as a notification of your designation. No further congressional action will be required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bolten", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joshua B. Bolten
Director