

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE

KENT CONRAD, CHAIRMAN

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STATEMENT BY SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KENT CONRAD (D-ND) ON SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS DECISION ON WAR FUNDING IN FY 2008 BUDGET RESOLUTION

During a meeting of the Senate Democratic Caucus today, I had an opportunity to present several options for war funding that could be included in our budget resolution. The caucus overwhelmingly agreed that the budget resolution should reflect the President's request of \$145 billion for FY2008 war funding.

One of the options we discussed, which I mentioned during a Senate Budget Committee hearing this morning, was a five-year war funding scenario devised by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. The CBO scenario was developed prior to the submission of the President's budget request and reflected an estimate of the longer-term costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, our members indicated they feel strongly we should incorporate the President's defense numbers in our budget, and that is what I intend to do.

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