

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

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**THE BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009**  
(H.Con.Res. 312)

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- **Balance by 2012, Without Raising Taxes.** Prevents scheduled tax increases by retaining provisions enacted in 2001/2003; prevents expansion of the AMT for the next 3 years, and achieves full repeal in 2013.
- **Discretionary Spending Priorities.**
  - *National Defense, and the War on Terrorism.* Defense discretionary spending equals the President’s request for 2009-13, including funds for overseas operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.
  - *Veterans.* Provides \$49.2 billion for veterans’ health care in fiscal year 2009, \$1 billion more than the Democratic budget.
  - *Homeland Security.* Meets the President’s request, an increase of \$3 billion over 2008, for a total of \$47 billion.
  - *Total Discretionary Spending.* Provides a 4.3-percent increase in nonemergency discretionary budget authority in fiscal year 2009; removes earmarks and dedicates the \$14.8 billion in savings to keeping taxes low and balancing the budget.
- **Earmark Reform/Accountability:** Imposes a moratorium on congressional earmarks for the remainder of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress; requires a separate vote on increasing the public debt; requires cost estimates on conference reports and unreported bills; prohibits domestic add-ons to emergency war spending bills; limits long-term spending commitments; prevents use of reconciliation to increase spending; limits “advance appropriations” to \$23.565 billion in 2010; provides a \$7.3-billion domestic emergency reserve fund; provides for contingency war funds; incorporates bipartisan Legislative Line Item Veto; strengthens PAYGO by prohibiting use of tax hikes to finance direct spending increases.
- **Entitlement Reform.** Calls for continued reforms that rescue Medicare and Medicaid from impending financial crisis, and makes the Federal Government’s major entitlements more responsive, flexible, and sustainable. Calls for 1 percent savings by reducing waste, fraud, and abuse. Contrasts with the Democrats’ budget, which puts off reform for at least 5 years, and increases unfunded liabilities by \$14 trillion.