

THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

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THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET SPEND NOW, SPEND LATER

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The Democratic budget is full of spending increases, and ideas for spending even more. Here are some facts:

- **Proposes a Record-Setting 1-Year Appropriations Increase.** The budget promotes an astonishing 8.8-percent (\$82 billion) year-to-year increase in total nonemergency discretionary spending.
 - This annually appropriated spending rises from the \$933-billion enacted level in fiscal year 2008 to \$1.015 *trillion* in 2009.
 - The figure also reflects a \$23.4-billion increase over the President’s request in nondefense, nonemergency discretionary spending – *which translates to \$280 billion above the President over 5 years* (including cap adjustments).
- **Increases ‘Advance Appropriations.’** The budget also increases by \$2 billion, to \$27.588 billion, the amount that can be appropriated in fiscal year 2010 or later (not including the advance for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting). This gimmick builds spending into the base of government that is effectively exempt from budget disciplines.
- **Sets the Table for Billions in Further Tax and Spending Hikes.** The budget contains 16 “reserve funds” that call for at least \$100 billion in additional spending increases, if offset with commensurate savings or – as is far more likely – higher taxes. These increases include a proposed \$50-billion boost for the State Children’s Health Insurance Program [SCHIP]. Oddly, none of the reserve funds accommodates reforms to address the 47 million uninsured in America – including the proposals of the two Democratic presidential candidates.
- **Contains No Earmark Reform.** At the same time, the Democratic budget does nothing to cure the continuing problem of congressional earmarks. The fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills contained 11,234 of these special-interest projects, totaling \$14.8 billion.