

February 5, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter: Bush Budget for 2009 is Irresponsible, Incomplete

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep.
Slaughter: Bush Budget for 2009 is Irresponsible, Incomplete

Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, rejected the Bush Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 budget as irresponsible, incomplete, and immoral.

"On every issue our nation faces, it is our responsibility to ensure that the policies we pursue are consistent with the values we cherish," said Rep. Slaughter. "This budget fails that test. It is fiscally and morally irresponsible, and

demonstrates a failure to lead.”;

She added, “In the face of a looming recession, President Bush’s budget does nothing to strengthen the economy and fails to respond to the real needs of middle class families in Western New York and across the nation. This budget is just more of the same from a President who believes that defense spending, the War in Iraq, and tax cuts for the rich should come at the expense of fiscal responsibility, education, healthcare, and a host of other important issues.”;

The Bush

Administration’s Fiscal Year 2009 budget proposes that the government spend over \$3 trillion in a 12-month period for the first time in history, yet makes deep cuts to many domestic programs and services. For example, it cuts \$196 billion over the next five years from Medicare and Medicaid — health care programs for the elderly, sick, and the poor.

“Over the coming months, Democrats will fight for a budget that reflects the values of America’s working families: national security, prosperity, opportunity, fairness, community, and accountability,” continued Rep. Slaughter. “A responsible budget is the first step towards building a future worthy of the trust of the American people, the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, and the aspirations of all of America’s children.”;

BACKGROUND:

Congresswoman

Slaughter believes that creating jobs is vital for expanding and revitalizing our economy. However, the President’s budget does not make this a priority. For example, the budget proposes reducing funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), from \$90 million to just \$4 million. MEP, supported by Rep. Slaughter, is the only program that provides resources and services to small and medium U.S. manufacturers to help them create jobs, leverage private-sector investment and compete in the global 21st century economy. The \$4 million allocated by the President’s budget is far below the level needed to maintain services. In New York State alone, businesses will lose \$4.571 million in services, resulting in estimated losses of 2,253 jobs and over \$93 million in private investment.

General:

- President Bush projects that with this budget, currently declining deficits will soar to near-record levels, reaching \$410 billion this year and \$407 billion in 2009.
- The proposal does not plan to balance the budget until at least 2012 and will increase the national debt from \$9.6 trillion in FY2008 to \$11.8 trillion by FY2012.

Defense:

- Increases overall Defense funding by 3.5 percent, from \$479.5 billion in FY08 to \$515.4 billion.

Transportation:

- Cuts Department of Transportation funding by 25.7 percent, requesting \$11.5 billion compared to the FY08 enacted level of \$15.5 billion.
- Cuts Federal Aviation Administration funding by \$240 million, requesting \$14.64 million in discretionary funding.
- Cuts nearly \$6 million in discretionary spending for the Federal Highway Administration compared with the FY08 enacted level, requesting \$35,514 million in discretionary spending. In mandatory spending, the President cuts \$59,000 compared with 2008 funding level, requesting only \$1,044 million.
- The President cuts \$400 million in federal subsidies for Amtrak, requesting only \$800 million compared to the \$1.2 billion FY08 enacted level.

Social
Security/Health Care:

- Level funds for the National Institute of Health at \$29.307 billion.
- Cuts \$376 million from the Center for Disease Control.
- Cuts health professions grants by \$240 million.
- Eliminates funding for Graduate Medical Education.

Arts:

Cuts \$16 million from the National Endowment for the Arts, reducing FY2009 funding to \$128.412 million compared to FY2008 enacted levels.

Other Domestic
Issues:

- Levels funds for Title X, the nation's family planning program at the FY2008 enacted level of \$300 million. Does not provide any funding for the HOPE VI Program, which revitalizes severely distressed public housing. HOPE VI received \$100 million in FY08. The budget proposes funding for Community Development Block Grants at \$3 billion, 0.9 billion less than the '08 levels.
- Level funds for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant at \$666 million.
- Eliminates all funding for the Maternal and Child Health Small Categorical Grants which received \$40 million in FY08.
- Cuts \$570 million from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, requesting only \$2 billion in FY2009, compared to \$2.57 billion in FY2008 enacted.
- Cuts \$30 million from the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NRC), requesting only \$150 million and eliminates Single Family Housing Direct Loans. Cuts funding for the Army Corps of Engineers by 15.1 percent, requesting only 4.7 billion in FY2009, compared to \$5.6 billion in the FY2008 enacted level.

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