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## March 13, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter Applauds Passage of Democratic Budget for FY2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Rep. Slaughter  
Applauds Passage of Democratic Budget for FY2009

Rejects Deep Cuts in  
President's Budget Proposal

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today applauded passage of H.Con. Res. 312, the Democratic budget resolution for fiscal year 2009. The budget sets funding priorities for the coming fiscal year that include education, children's health care, veterans' services, America's security, and tax relief for middle-income households while reaching balance by 2012. The resolution was passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 212-207.

"The Democratic budget fulfills our commitment to the American people by funding the priorities important to the families of Western New York and across the country," said Rep. Slaughter. "A nation's budget should reflect its values. Our fiscally responsible plan invests in proven programs that will boost the economy, keep our nation safe, and meet our obligation to America's veterans, seniors, and children."

"This budget stands in stark contrast to the President's misguided budget proposal that calls for deep cuts in education, health care for veterans and children, and services for our seniors. Unlike the Democratic plan, the President fails to address the exploding national deficit and would leave America's future generations to dig our country out of an increasing pile of debt," concluded Slaughter.

#### BACKGROUND ON THE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET RESOLUTION:

##### Fiscal Responsibility

- Reaches balance in 2012 and remains in balance in 2013 using realistic estimates from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office.
- Complies with the House pay-as-you go rule that requires all mandatory spending and revenue provisions to be deficit-neutral.
- Contains initiatives to crack down on wasteful spending.
- Posts smaller deficits than the President's budget over five years from 2009-2013.

##### Rejects the Bush Administration's Cuts

- Rejects \$479 billion of Medicare cuts and \$94 billion in cuts to Medicaid over ten years.
- Rejects more than \$18 billion in new fees for veterans and military retirees over five years.
- Rejects the elimination of several state and local law enforcement programs.

##### Strengthens the Economy

- Invests in highways, water, and other infrastructure projects.
- Provides crucial funding to enhance our scientific and technological competitive edge.
- Increases funding for efficient and renewable energy programs.

Provides  
Tax Relief and Help for Struggling Families

- Accommodates tax relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax for more than 20 million households.
- Includes up to a \$50 billion increase to expand children's health insurance to cover millions of uninsured children.
- Provides for home heating assistance, Social Services Block Grants, and housing assistance programs.
- Provides \$7.1 billion more than the President's budget for vital education, job training, and social services programs.

Makes  
America  
Safer

- Shifts funds to high priorities such as reducing "loose nukes" and nuclear nonproliferation programs.
- Increases veterans funding by \$3.6 billion, enough to allow the Veterans Administration to treat 5.8 million patients in 2009, including 333,275 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans.
- Increases homeland security funding over the Bush Administration's request.
- Increases funding for first responder programs including Community Oriented Policing Services and firefighter assistance grants over the President's budget.

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