

May 21, 2008 - Rep. Slaughter Hails Passage of Budget for FY09

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RELEASE

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Washington, DC — Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, today joined colleagues in passing the conference report to S.Con.Res 70, the FY09 budget resolution. This resolution, which will guide budgetary decisions in the upcoming fiscal year, passed by a vote of 212 to 207

This budget sets funding priorities that include education, children's health care, veterans' services, job creation, and America's security, all while balancing the budget by 2012.

"A nation's budget should reflect its values," said Rep. Slaughter. "This fiscally responsible plan invests in the priorities important to the families of Western New York and across the country."

"This budget will fund proven programs to boost our economy while also providing tax relief to millions of households in order to help families struggling to make ends meet during this economic downturn," Slaughter continued.

The budget agreement also rejects harmful cuts proposed by the President that would affect a wide range

of services and millions of Americans.

“The President is sorely out of touch with the needs of Americans and proposed deep cuts in funding for education, health care for veterans and children and services for our seniors,” Slaughter concluded. “With this budget, we have soundly rejected his misguided proposal.”

BACKGROUND

Earlier this year, the House passed its own budget resolution (H.Con.Res.312). The conference report that was passed today reflects compromises between the House and Senate on spending priorities.

Senate approval of this conference report will mark the first election year since 2000 that Congress has approved a budget resolution.

Key provisions of the conference agreement follow:

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.

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 significantly more than the President's budget for vital education, job training, and social services programs.

Makes America Safer

Increases
veterans funding by \$3.7 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.

Shifts
funds to high priorities such as reducing "loose nukes" and nuclear nonproliferation programs.

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