



DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Robert Menendez, Chairman
James E. Clyburn, Vice Chair

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2005

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**MENENDEZ: “IF A BUDGET REFLECTS OUR VALUES,
THE BUSH BUDGET IS A SLAP IN THE FACE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE”**
*Budget cuts come at a huge cost to domestic programs; where was his budget discipline when
President doled out trillions in tax cuts?*

JERSEY CITY, NJ -- House Democratic Caucus Chairman Bob Menendez (D-NJ) today made the following statement regarding the President’s Fiscal Year 2006 Budget:

“Every year, the Administration is tasked to come up with a budget that reflects its priorities in spending; priorities that reflect its values. Unfortunately, this president’s budget -- and the values it represents -- insults the true values of the American People, given the extensive cuts to first responders, community policing, veterans’ benefits, health care, and education funding.

“The sudden budget discipline encouraged by this president in his Fiscal Year 2006 budget comes as a direct result of his repeated, massive trillion dollar tax cuts for the wealthy that have led us down a path of fiscal recklessness. Four years ago, when Democrats in Congress insisted that President Bush invest in our economy instead of doling out trillions of dollars in tax cuts, we were met with deaf ears.

“These deaf ears are now promoting an ‘ownership society,’ but are actively undermining an ‘opportunity society’ -- the foundation this nation was built on.

“President Bush’s budget adds more than \$4 trillion to the deficit in the next 10 years, while failing to include the cost of the war in Iraq, currently estimated at \$5 billion a month. In addition to the conspicuous absence of Iraq funding, the president’s budget also fails to address the trillions of dollars needed to follow through on his proposal to privatize Social Security.

“This budget is just plain wrong for America; it comes at a great cost to America’s middle class and does not reflect our nation’s values.

“Democrats will continue our fight to restore fiscal responsibility in order to secure our homeland, provide for America’s seniors and veterans, fund education initiatives to guarantee our children’s future success in an increasingly competitive world, and lay the foundation for an ‘opportunity society’ that truly reflects our values and our commitment in a better, more prosperous and stronger America.”

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