

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

www.house.gov/spratt | www.house.gov/budget_democrats

Wednesday, March 09, 2005 – For Immediate Release

Contact: Chuck Fant, 202-225-5501

Spratt Statement on Republican Budget Resolution

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC), Ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee, today released the following statement on the Committee's mark-up of the Republican budget resolution for Fiscal Year 2006.

"The budget put forth by House Republicans shares all the flaws of the President's budget. While claiming progress on the deficit, it actually worsens the problem.

"The deficit is worse than portrayed because the resolution omits substantial costs. It includes no funding for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan after 2006, and only a token for fixing the Alternative Minimum Tax. It includes not a dime for the cost of the President's Social Security privatization plan, and does not provide any deficit numbers at all beyond five years, masking the deficits after 2010, which grow worse as tax cuts of 2001 and 2003, set to expire in 2010, are instead renewed.

"The Republicans' budget resolution does propose some spending cuts, but they have hardly any net effect on the deficit, although they will clearly hurt Medicaid, veterans health care, education, community development, and law enforcement.

"Democrats will offer a budget on the House floor that is more fiscally responsible, while protecting services that people depend upon, like education, veterans health care, and community development. The Republican budget does not move to balance; it only moves us farther down a path which Chairman Greenspan warned is 'unsustainable.'"

#