

# IN THEIR OWN WORDS: Republicans On the 2004 Bush Budget

## **BUDGET PRIORITY**

### **EDUCATION**

*The Bush FY 2004 budget includes \$22.7 billion for the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, an increase of only 1.9% since NCLB was signed and \$9.7 billion below full funding. Additionally, the 2004 Bush Budget proposes \$9.5 billion for IDEA special education – nearly \$11 billion short of the amount needed to fully fund special education.*



Sen. Maj. Leader Bill Frist  
[AP, 2/25/03]

**“The federal government, which talks a good game, has not fulfilled its obligations to you.”**



Senator Olympia Snowe  
[National Journal, 2/8/03]

**“This budget once again falls short of the federal commitment to fund 40 percent of special-education costs.”**



Senator Arlen Specter  
[Washington Post, 4/7/03]

**“Why are you cutting rural education? How can we go back to justify that to our constituents?”**

### **HOMELAND SECURITY**

*The Bush Budget has been criticized by experts as being inadequate. Among other things, the Bush budget proposes to cut total “Border and Transportation Security” by \$284 million. It also includes no money for port security grants despite the Coast Guard reporting in December that the first year cost of port security is at least \$963 million and that total costs over the next decade are \$4.4 billion. It also freezes funding for first responders.*



Rep. Mac Thornberry,  
Homeland Security  
Committee  
[National Journal, 2/8/03]

**“I am certain [the budget] is not adequate.”**

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BUDGET PRIORITY	REPUBLICAN OPINION	
<p><b><u>VETERANS</u></b> <i>According to the Independent Budget put out by national veterans groups, the Bush Budget falls \$2 billion short of what is necessary to adequately fund veterans care. As the Independent Budget says, "due to perennially inadequate health-care budgets, the VA health-care system can no longer meet the needs of our nation's sick and disabled veterans."</i></p>	 <p>Rep. Chris Smith Chairman of Veterans Affairs Committee [National Journal, 2/8/03]</p>	<p><b>"The budget proposal falls short of meeting veterans' health care needs...It also relies on unrealistic management efficiencies, steep new charges on veterans, the closure of thousands of VA-operated nursing home beds, and the disenrollment of more than a million veterans from the VA health care system to balance the books."</b></p>
<p><b><u>TRANSPORTATION</u></b> <i>According to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee website, in the face of worsening congestion and gridlock, the federal-aid highway program request by Bush of \$29.3 billion is \$2.5 billion less than the FY 2002 enacted level, and the Federal Transit Administration budget is frozen.</i></p>	 <p>Rep. Don Young Chairman of Transportation &amp; Infrastructure Committee [News Release, 2/4/03]</p>	<p><b>"The President's budget proposal for highways and transit will not close the funding gap that is needed to address the nation's infrastructure. In fact, the Department of Transportation reported in its 2002 Conditions and Performance Report that the needs of the nation's highway and transit infrastructure are greater than twice the number in the President's Budget."</b></p>
<p><b><u>JUVENILE PROGRAMS</u></b> <i>As the New York Times reported, programs to steer juveniles away from crime are "in danger of being eliminated because of \$250 million in proposed cuts in juvenile justice programs in President Bush's budget for next year, along with \$400 million in cuts in after school programs for children at risk of falling into delinquency."</i></p>	 <p>Senator Jeff Sessions [NY Times, 3/9/03]</p>	<p><b>"I don't think we should reduce funding for these programs. We should be increasing funding."</b></p>