

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE
Chairman Adam Putnam

Memorial Day

RECESS RESOURCE KIT





Memorial Day Recess Resource Kit *2007*
HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE



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Dear Republican Colleagues:

Over the last several weeks, Republicans have had great success in communicating our message to the American people, despite Democrats' efforts to stifle all forms of debate on the House floor. We have already won 11 "motion-to-recommit" votes this year – compared to the 14 won by Democrats during their 12 years in the minority. With Democrat-led Congress' approval ratings at 29 percent, the American people recognize the Democrats' missed opportunities and failure to govern. During the coming recess, we must continue to demonstrate to our constituents that we are the party of ideas and the party of reform.

Memorial Day gives us the opportunity to honor and support our troops, both past and present, who have sacrificed greatly to protect our freedom and security. It is also the beginning of summer vacation for many of America's schoolchildren. As families across the country travel on vacation, they will feel the severe pinch on their wallets because Democrats have failed to deliver on promises to bring down record-high gas prices, and generally don't believe in energy policies that actually produce energy.

I urge you to take advantage of this time spent in your district to meet with your constituents face-to-face and respond to their needs on the issues highlighted in this packet. These resources will assist you and your staff in planning and preparing events, driving the GOP message, and responding to questions from the press and public. Based on the Democrats' do-nothing record and sinking approval numbers, there's likely to be a lot of them.

If you need any additional support materials or have questions do not hesitate to use the Conference as a resource. Thank you again for all of your hard work.

Sincerely,



Adam Putnam
Chairman, House Republican Conference



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Sample Memorial Day Speech

Thank you for having me today. I especially want to recognize the veterans who are with us. Thank you for allowing me to join you in paying respects to those comrades of yours who were never able to return home from the distant battlefields on which they did their part to allow us to continue to speak, assemble, and worship freely.

For many Americans, Memorial Day is a time of transition: spring cleaning finally gives way to summer traditions, and streets are lined with lawns bustling with activity, flags flying in the front of the house, smoke rising from the barbeques in the back.

These are fitting ways to commemorate those brave souls who gave their lives to protect the freedom and secure the liberty we enjoy today.

Because though our country's fallen heroes may never have had the opportunity to see their families or salute their flag again, it is surely those very images that inspire in them the immeasurable courage needed to make the ultimate sacrifice.

What you may not know about Memorial Day is that it was chosen to be celebrated on May 30 specifically because it is not the anniversary of any major battle in the history of American warfare. This was done to solidify Memorial Day's standing as a moment of pure pause, a genuine day of remembrance.

The notion that we should celebrate Memorial Day in somber fashion is just as, if not even more important at this moment, when our nation is at war, when tens of thousands of American men and women are currently engaged in harm's way against an enemy whose ambitions are of a most sinister and hateful nature.

Technology today allows the families of those serving abroad to hear from their loved ones frequently. No longer do wives have to wait weeks to hear from their husbands, no longer do the neighbors of proud mothers and fathers have to peer out the window each day to see if any news from Over There has been delivered by the postal service.

I would like to read one such missive to you now. Four days before his death, Army Staff Sgt. Darrell Ray Griffin Jr. of Fort Lewis, Washington, an infantry squad leader in Baghdad, sent an e-mail to his wife, Diana, which read:

"Spartan women of Greece used to tell their husbands, before they went into battle, to come back with their shields or laying on them, dying honorably in battle. But if they did not return with their shield, this showed that they ran away from the battle. Cowardice was not a Spartan virtue ... Tell me that you love me the same by me coming back with my shield or on it."

It's clear to me from reading letters like this one that cowardice is not an American virtue either. Darrell, America owes you and all your brothers and sisters in war its eternal gratitude for shielding our children from an enemy that threatens the peace and stability of the world in which they will rise to become the next generation of doers, thinkers, and leaders.

The brave men and women who have died serving freedom's cause have surely left behind an irreplaceable presence at the dinner tables of their families, what Dwight Eisenhower once called "the homes that must sacrifice the best."

At the same time, Memorial Day allows us to take note of the indelible mark our fallen heroes have left by instilling in us the values that have, since America was but a gleam in the eyes of its founding fathers, furthered our mission on Earth.

So often, we are prone to lament that young people today grow up in a world different than the one we did, but it's clear that that is just not the case. America is a nation of great **character**, and our youngest have once again proven to be our bravest.

The troops that have fallen in service of this land we love have also given us the **courage** to continue in their stead, to seek a just and lasting peace for those who embrace the cause of freedom and understand the good that democracy can do for humankind.

Finally, but most importantly, our honored dead have left us with the **inspiration** to serve a cause greater than our self-interest, to dedicate ourselves in whatever way we can - no matter how big or small the effort may seem - to make our families proud and our country a little greater than it was the day before.

Character, Courage, Inspiration.* These are words that have been woven into the history of Western Civilization often, but never has a nation given meaning to these words in such a short time as America has.

Thank you for being here today on this holiday of heavy hearts. God Bless our troops and the great country they serve.

**Note: You could always switch these with values that your boss may like to talk about.*

Honeymoon's Over: Demos Majority's Approval Down to 29%

Distant Memory: "We are prepared to lead and ready to govern." (Speaker Pelosi, 11/4/06)

73%

73 percent of Americans believe Congress has done 'not too much' or 'nothing at all.'" (Washington Post, 5/5/07)

29%

29 percent approve of Democrat-led Congress, down from 37 percent in early February. (Gallup Poll, 5/15/07)

Democrats vs. the American People on Iraq

"For all the promises of its new Democratic leaders, Congress seems truly interested in doing only one thing: surrendering in Iraq. No wonder its public approval ratings have sunk below the president's." (Investor's Business Daily, 5/16/07)

59%

59 percent of Americans expressed disapproval of the way Democrats are handling the situation in Iraq. (USA Today/Gallup Poll, 5/4-6/07)

55%

55 percent of Americans don't believe the war in Iraq is lost. **Memo to Senator Reid: A majority of Americans disagree with you.** (CNN/Opinion Research Poll, 5/4-6/07)

A Majority of Americans Now Oppose Surrender Date in Troop Funding Bill

56%

56 percent of Americans now say Congress should not withhold funding following the President's veto and instead "allow funding for the war, even if there is no timetable" for withdrawal. (CBS News/New York Times survey, 4/20-24/07)

57%

57 percent of Americans oppose any Democrat effort to insist on a withdrawal timeline after the President's veto. Only 32 percent say they want Democrat leaders to "insist" on a timeline. (Pew Research, 4/18-22/07)

BY THE NUMBERS

115 Million	Number of taxpayers who will pay more because of the tax hikes contained in the Democrats' 2008 budget blueprint.
\$776 Million	Number of dollars Democrats slashed from the U.S. Missile Defense Agency while Iranian and North Korean missile programs proceed unabated.
\$217 Billion	Amount of tax increases in the Democrat budget. It is the 2nd largest tax increase in American history, and leaves the door open for more tax increases in the future.
0	Number of Democrat "6 for '06" items signed into law.
42%	Fraction of the laws Democrats passed so far that named federal buildings, instead of funding the troops or balancing the budget.
\$3.10	Cost of a gallon of gasoline, up 80 cents from the time Democrats took office.
90%	Fraction of Seniors that now have drug coverage thanks to the Republican-passed Medicare prescription drug benefit.
\$90,000	Amount of cold, hard cash found by the FBI in Rep. Jefferson's (D-LA) freezer.
7.8 Million	Number of jobs created since the Republican-passed pro-growth tax cuts in 2003.
13,489.57	The all-time record high close of the Dow Jones Industrial Average on May 16, 2007 - driven by Republican Tax Relief.
\$23 Million	Size of Rep. Murtha earmark in the Intelligence Authorization for the National Drug Intelligence Center in Murtha's hometown. GAO has criticized it for being duplicative with 19 other drug intelligence centers.
\$210 Million	Level of funding for the salmon, menhaden fish, shrimp, spinach and aquaculture industries provided by the Democrats in the original emergency spending bill for the Global War on Terrorism.

Message &
 The Media

Ideas for Celebrating our Troops and Veterans

At the end of May our Members can do a great deal to reinforce our support for our troops and veterans, especially with this being the first recess after the funding fight.

- **Memorial Day – Monday, May 28** – honors Americans who have died in combat.

This is an opportunity to emphasize **GOP solidarity with today's brave men and women in uniform as well as those who have come before them.**

A Member may want to come up with **his or her own theme** for this period – whether it be “*Appreciation of a Nation*” or “*Freedom Through Unity*” or something similar —and coordinate events throughout the ten days. Ideas include:

- If Members haven't already, this is a good time to visit or re-visit **local VA facilities**, especially in the wake of what happened at Walter Reed.
- **Editorial board meetings** can serve the express purpose of driving our message that Democrats have acted against the best interests of our troops in harm's way.
- If there is a **military installation or a National Guard unit** in your district, the Memorial Day recess provides a good opportunity to tour the installation and/or meet with personnel.
- There is a **National Moment of Remembrance** at 3 PM local time on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28.
- A **Veterans Medal Ceremony** for constituents who have yet to receive their service medal. It may be a good idea to invite students who have been nominated for service academies to reinforce the notion of supporting our troops young and old. This has even more significant impact in situations – some posthumous – where veterans may not have gotten medals (purple hearts) they deserved.
- Invite veterans to attend a **local baseball game** with the Member and have a **pre-game cookout** with the veterans and their families.
- Encourage local schools to have **Veterans' Appreciation Day** ceremonies. The schools could encourage their students to be creative and come up with ideas to commemorate your chosen theme.
- Work with **Veterans organizations** like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion to organize Memorial Day events.

(This document was emailed to District Directors on May 1, 2007)

Best Practice: Veterans Medal Ceremony

Member: Ginny Brown-Waite, FL-05; Pete Hoekstra, MI-02

How it works:

- ❖ District office staff will identify veterans in the district who have yet to receive their service medal (all soldiers who serve on the battlefield qualify for one) through veteran's services organizations.
- ❖ After doing this, the veteran(s) signs a privacy authorization form and provides the member office with all the appropriate discharge paperwork (DD214 forms). The member office processes the forms and receives the medals in the office.
- ❖ District office should reserve a venue and schedule a time to award the medals to the veterans, and send out invitations three weeks beforehand. Outside veterans groups should be invited as well [local VSO's, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion]. If there are a large number of veterans to receive their award, the member can hold the event at a VFW post.
- ❖ The press secretary should invite all county press, including local TV and radio and reporters who cover veteran's issues.
- ❖ Oftentimes there will be accompanying Congressional Record proclamations if they are outstanding medals or for great stories.

The Benefits:

- ❖ Honors veterans from the member's district.
- ❖ Generates well-publicized contact between the member and their district.

Member Office Contact: Charlie Keller, (202) 225-1002 (Brown-Waite); Paula Van Dyke, (202) 225-4401 (Hoekstra)

Best Practice: Veterans Resource Fair

Member: Dave Reichert (WA-08)

How it works:

- ❖ Bring together veterans service providers from across the spectrum – nonprofit, government, military and volunteer – on a Saturday morning, and publicize broadly to vets to drive attendance and awareness. (We did a tele-town hall just with Vets, Talk Radio, etc.)
- ❖ There are many groups out there who provide benefits for Vets that you may not be aware of and Vets are not aware of. Vets were able to learn about benefits and services available to them from 45 different organizations providing everything from healthcare to home loans, education benefits and mental health, family support services to employment opportunities, and more. Each organization had its own table and materials. Vets signed in, then visited the tables of particular interest to them.

The Benefits:

- ❖ The primary goal was to enroll more veterans in the state and federal VA systems. Also useful to spread word of accomplishments on behalf of veterans.
- ❖ The Fair also provided a service to vets by bringing multiple service providers to them in one location. The Fair created an environment for service providers to network and make connections. (This is an area where we received some of the most unexpected praise; many commented that they seldom have an opportunity to meet each other face to face, and that it reduced some “territory” issues for them.) This helps identify you as a leader in the community and creates a buzz.

Big Picture:

- ❖ In the minority we cannot always get legislation passed. But we can still be effective. We should be looking for other ways that our offices can be centers of solving problems instead of just talking. What other issues can we hold Fairs on?

Member Office Contact: Tom Young - tom.young@mail.house.gov

Best Practice: Welcoming Veterans Home – a Military/Civilian Partnership

Member: Heather Wilson (NM-01)

The Challenge: *Develop an easily accessible & knowledgeable system of care for veterans, returning soldiers and their families.*

How it works: A community network

- ❖ Convene senior community leaders from key groups & organizations: health, education, business, faith, military, government and veterans.
- ❖ Local University completes survey of existing Veterans services to identify capabilities and gaps.
- ❖ Improve community knowledge of services, address gaps and establish working group to improve services and support.
- ❖ Identify non-profit to continue to take ownership and facilitate communication between Veterans and service organizations.

The Benefits:

- ❖ Creates a vehicle through which the community desire to help support military families can be realized.
- ❖ Develop **accessible** support system for veterans and military.
- ❖ Increase knowledge of available resources.
- ❖ Maximize congressional resources to enable Veterans to get the services they need on their own.

Member Office Contact: John Larson (202) 225-6316

TALKING POINTS: This Memorial Day, Honoring Our Nation's Fallen

OUR PRINCIPLE: On Memorial Day we take the time to honor our nation's fallen heroes and our veterans both past and present. The freedoms and liberties we cherish are owed to the blood and sacrifice of countless Americans who answered their nation's call to serve over the decades.

Memorial Day commemorates the sacrifices made by all our veterans. Its origins lie in the Civil War. While many communities held their own ceremonies, Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, the head of an organization of Union veterans, declared May 30 to be "Decoration Day" in honor of those killed in the Civil War. Not until World War I did Memorial Day honor veterans of all wars. Memorial Day became a federal holiday in 1971 by an Act of Congress.

"These dead shall not have died in vain." We must live up to the same challenge today that President Lincoln gave to his audience on that solemn battlefield in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 144 years ago:

- "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- **that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.**"

We will not forget that Memorial Day is no holiday for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are standing guard today, not enjoying backyards, barbecues and ballgames.

The heroes returning from battle today deserve better than the inexcusable conditions at Walter Reed. No amount of government dollars can overcome the insufficient leadership that resulted in the poor conditions at Walter Reed.

- **Wounded Warriors Assistance Act.** Congress unanimously passed legislation instituting much-needed reforms to ensure that America's wounded soldiers receive the finest healthcare through the military health system. Among its reforms, the bill improves the transition in care from the Defense Department to the VA, reduces the ratio between case managers and patients and establishes a toll-free hotline to receive patient complaints.

Ideas for Earned Media Events on Rising Gas Prices

- **Talk radio** is bound to be abuzz with this issue as prices continue to rise. Don't be afraid to get booked on a local show to talk about this – and to help in educating your constituents about why it's happening and ways to conserve.
- Draft an **op-ed** on energy and shop it to one local paper—be sure they have the “exclusive” as they're more likely to run it if they do.
- Host a **press availability** at a local gas station with constituents affected by rising prices to identify your priorities on this issue.
- Hold an event at a **car dealership** or a manufacturer (if you have one in your district) about the importance of hybrid cars. The Republican-passed Energy Policy Act of 2005 included consumer tax credits for hybrid vehicles to promote energy efficiency and conservation. Democrats should work with Republicans to extend and expand these tax credits.
- Hold **events highlighting renewable, alternative energy sources**, like wind and solar power. Visit solar or wind fields, or a business that produces the equipment to harness these forms of energy, like solar panels. Talk about your support for tax credits for use of these energy sources and the need for us all to explore options for using them in our homes and businesses. Find out what is available in your district by visiting www.seia.org or www.awea.org.
- Add an “**Energy and Gas Prices**” page to your Web site. On that page, lay out your positions on key energy issues and provide useful links for users to visit and read about the energy problem. Resourceful links include the Energy Department, www.doe.eia.gov and the Committee on Natural Resources: <http://republicans.resourcescommittee.house.gov/>
- Participate in events such as **Bike to Work Day** or take public transportation to your office to demonstrate for constituents some fun and easy ways to conserve gasoline.

(This document was distributed to Offices on March 27, 2007)

Best Practice: District Gas Tour

Member: John Carter, TX-31

How it works:

- ❖ District staff travels with the congressman and takes photos during tour.
- ❖ Member's staff lines up which gas stations the member is going to visit and the press secretary invites all energy/environmental reporters in the district as well as general congressional reporters (TV, radio and print).

The Benefits:

- ❖ Easy way for reporters to get local footage/spin on a national story (high gas prices), generally positive press for the member.
- ❖ Generates well-publicized contact between the member and their district. Member can pump gas for people and talk with them about gas prices and the need for energy legislation, photo ops in front of the high gas prices, time for coffee with locals to discuss energy prices.
- ❖ No outside groups are needed for this event.

Member Office Contact: Lindsey Willis, (202) 225-3864

TALKING POINTS: Democrat Broken Promises on Gas Prices

OUR PRINCIPLE: Americans feel the crunch of high gas prices every day. Not only have Democrats failed to enact their agenda, they have broken their promise to “lower gas prices” for American families. Republicans remain committed to easing the pain Americans feel at the pump through investments in our energy future.

Republicans have proposed numerous solutions to address short-term supply issues and make renewable energies more available in the long-term. Time after

time, House Democrats responded by voting “No.” For example:

- Democrat leaders voted 3 times from 2004 to 2006 against legislation to expand refinery capacity, increase supply and reduce gas prices. (H.R. 5254, 2006; H.R. 3893, 2005; H.R. 4517, 2004)
- Democrat leaders voted 3 times from 2003 to 2005 against advancing clean, renewable technologies through the Energy Policy Act. (H.R. 6, 11/03, 4/03; H.R. 6, 2005)

Recent Republican accomplishments include:

- House passage of H.R. 5253, the Federal Energy Price Protection Act of 2006
 - Directs the FTC to define “price gouging,” “wholesale sale” and “retail sale” through rule-making.
 - Provides for strong civil enforcement by the FTC **and** by states’ attorneys general, and criminal enforcement by the U.S. attorney general and the Dept. of Justice.
 - Provides for criminal and civil penalties for price gouging.
- House passage of H.R. 5254, the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act
 - Establishes a coordinator to consolidate the permitting process for refineries in order to reduce the amount of time it takes to obtain a permit
- Dedicating \$3.7 billion for fuel-cell research with a goal of putting low-emission hydrogen-powered cars on the road by 2020.
- Requiring 7.5 billion gallons of “renewable” fuel be available by 2012, primarily ethanol cooked out of corn, grass and agricultural waste.
- Supporting research to lengthen battery life and other technology for use in traditional and plug-in hybrid cars. In 10 years, some say, your 30-mile commute could be gasoline-free.
- Offering tax incentives to build new ethanol, hydrogen and other alternative fuel stations. 401 E85 pumps have already been installed since President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 last August.

Democrats are running on empty as gas prices reach all-time record levels. They have failed to enact any big-ticket agenda items, including a plan to lower gas prices.

- ***Washington Post:*** “Not a single priority on the Democrats’ agenda has been enacted, and some in the party are growing nervous that the ‘do nothing’ tag they slapped on Republicans last year could come back to haunt them.” (5/5/07)

Democrats broke their repeated promises to address the high cost of gasoline.

Speaker Pelosi touted a plan to “lower gas prices” more than a year ago, and after four months in the majority they have done nothing to keep that promise.

- Speaker Nancy Pelosi said more than a year ago: “Democrats have a plan to lower gas prices...” (Pelosi release, 4/19/06)
- The nationwide average for a gallon of regular unleaded today is \$3.04, up from \$2.91 a year ago when the Democrats promised to “lower gas prices.” (AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report, accessed 5/7/07)

21st Century Energy Policy: A Common Sense and Balanced Approach to American Energy Security

OUR PRINCIPLE: Americans deserve an energy policy for the 21st Century that protects our environment, lowers prices, and promotes energy security. Republicans are committed to a common sense, balanced approach to energy policy that will **create new sources of energy**, reduce our dependence on unreliable sources of foreign oil, improve energy efficiency and conservation, invest in groundbreaking research in alternative and renewable fuels, and promote fuel diversity.

America needs more American-made energy – in all its forms – to meet consumers' needs today, and an aggressive plan to deliver innovative fuels needed to meet their needs in the future.

Record energy prices, environmental concerns, and growing worldwide demand for energy require new congressional action. House Republicans passed landmark energy legislation that was enacted and is now yielding positive results. In order to strengthen our energy security and our economic security – and lower gasoline prices – we need to build on those policies with “next level” measures.

House Republicans propose an American energy security plan that puts innovative, break-through energy solutions into action. The House Republican proposal will create more energy to meet our needs and promote efficiency and conservation. This proposal outlines actions in four critical areas:

- **Increasing energy efficiency and conservation to reduce consumption and protect our environment** through 10 specific, common sense and achievable proposals – including reforms to CAFE fuel standards and expanded use of energy efficient vehicles and building materials.
- **Expanding the use of renewable and alternative American fuels** through 14 specific policy proposals, including an increase in the Renewable Fuel Standard and fast-tracking the infrastructure for E-85 and alternative fuels.
- **Funding research into new and innovative technologies that will deliver the fuels of the future**, including bio-fuels and next-generation electricity production.
- **Deploying high-tech, 21st century technologies to improve traditional, American-made energy production** through 10 specific proposals, including deep ocean exploration through federal-state agreement and partnership.

Republicans are proposing the only truly comprehensive and balanced energy plan – one that will create the energy Americans need in the 21st century. It is a big step forward for our energy security, for our environment and for American consumers.

- **It will improve our energy security** by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and diversifying the sources of energy that power America. And through greater emphasis on conservation, efficiency and renewable energy, **our proposal will help lower prices**, protect us from price spikes and **safeguard our environment**.

An Energy Policy for Today, for 2017 and Beyond

Our 21st Century Energy Proposals Over the Long-Term

	Now	In 10 years	More than 10 years
Renewable Energy and Alternative Fuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybrid tax credit • E85 Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 billion gallons of renewable fuel • Additional zero-carbon nuclear energy • Methane from landfill and agricultural uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 billion gallons of renewables • 30 billion gallons of alternative fuels
Breakthroughs in Research and Development for the Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program for advanced bio-fuels technology • Advanced vehicle batteries • Electricity Storage • Electricity and natural gas from farm applications • Carbon reduction from agricultural practices • Tree yield improvement for renewable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of bio-sources of energy • Plug-in Hybrids • Advanced fuel cell technologies • Advanced hydrogen technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean, tidal energy • Nuclear fuel reprocessing • Smart grid technology • High risk/high reward technology
Efficiency and Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAFE reform • Energy education • Energy efficient buildings • Energy efficient government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased energy efficient appliances and lighting • Reduce boutique fuels • Plug-in hybrids • Smart metering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax incentives for zero-carbon nuclear energy beyond EPAct of 2005.
21st Century Production of Traditional American Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoD Contracting for Coal-to-Liquids • Deep Ocean Energy • Expand North American energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shale oil • Carbon capture and sequestration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofit existing coal plants for carbon capture and sequestration

The Washington Post

House GOP Uses Procedural Tactic To Frustrate Democratic Majority

Motion to Recommit Employed to Delay or Alter Legislation

Saturday, May 19, 2007

House Republicans, fighting to remain relevant in a chamber ruled by Democrats, have increasingly seized on a parliamentary technique to alter or delay nearly a dozen pieces of legislation pushed by the majority this year.

And an election-year promise by Democrats to pay for any new programs they created has made it easier for Republicans to trip them up.

Tensions over the maneuvers reached a boil this week. Republicans used procedural tactics to stall floor debate for four hours Wednesday, and they are threatening to tie up future legislative action.

The stalling tactics prompted Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) to leave the floor and meet privately in his office with Republican Leader John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) and his whip, Rep. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.). The men emerged with an uneasy detente that they said would last at least until Congress breaks for the Memorial Day recess, but the matter is far from settled.

Since January, GOP leaders have relied on a maneuver known as the "motion to recommit" to stymie Democrats and score political points for Republicans still adjusting to life in the minority.

The motion to recommit allows the minority a chance to amend a bill on the floor or send it back to committee, effectively killing it. In a legislative body in which the party in power controls nearly everything, it is one of the few tools the minority has to effect change.

In the 12 years of Republican control that ended in January, Democrats passed 11 motions to recommit. Republicans have racked up the same number in just five months of this Congress.

Democrats say any comparison is unfair because when Republicans controlled Congress, they directed their members to vote against all Democratic motions to recommit.

Now in the majority and mindful of staying there, Democrats have given no such instruction to their members, allowing them to break with the party if they choose. Many freshmen Democrats from GOP-leaning districts find themselves voting with Republicans as a matter of survival -- a reality Republicans have seized upon.

"Sometimes we offer motions to recommit to improve legislation -- sometimes it's to force Democrats in marginal districts to make tough choices," Boehner said. "Every time the Republicans win, it boosts morale. We're able to show unity, which is good for the overall team. Members feel good about winning on the House floor. And when you're in the minority, it doesn't happen that often."

Democrats dismiss the Republican maneuvers as largely symbolic and so arcane as to be irrelevant to the public.

"From a public policy standpoint, it's not very significant," said Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), regarded as an expert in parliamentary combat. "It's almost a Capture the Flag game. The number of people in America who say, 'Oh my gosh, the Republicans won another motion to recommit' is very small."

But Republicans argue they have been able to make significant changes. They point to Thursday, when they successfully used a motion to recommit to restore millions of dollars for missile defense to a defense bill. It remains to be seen if that money will survive a conference committee.

"It's kind of a 'Rashomon' world," said Thomas Mann, a congressional scholar at the Brookings Institution, referring to the movie in which participants in an event all recount it differently. "The two parties see it in very different terms."

The Democrats' own rules have made it easier for Republicans to offer motions to recommit. In January, the party promised to observe "pay-go" -- finding a way to pay for any new spending rather than adding to the federal deficit. The unintended consequence is that tax proposals open legislation to modifications by the minority that would not otherwise be allowed.

Such was the case in March, when Democrats tried to pass a bill to give the District of Columbia a vote in the House. The bill included an additional seat for Utah and a minuscule tax increase to pay for two more House seats -- it called for expanding a provision of federal tax withholding law by .003 percent.

Republicans seized on the opening and moved to recommit the bill to committee, attaching new language that would have thrown out the District's strict anti-gun laws. Worried that conservative, pro-gun Democrats would feel compelled to vote with GOP and kill the bill, Democratic leaders yanked it from the floor. They regrouped and split the bill into two tightly written measures, both of which passed and are pending in the Senate.

But the problem for Democrats was apparent. "We need to address that, or we're going to be, on every bill . . . [facing] an amendment totally unrelated to the substance of the bill," Hoyer said at the time.

This week, Democratic staffers privately discussed a rule change to limit the Republicans' ability to make motions to recommit. GOP leaders were incensed and threatened to use all available procedural techniques to block every bill except war spending legislation. But Democrats are hampered by their promise to run the chamber in a more open fashion than Republicans did when in the majority.

Hoyer agreed to hold off on further rule changes until Memorial Day and consult Boehner and Blunt on possible changes.

"The bottom line is, the war goes on," Mann said. "The majority uses the rules to structure debates and limit amendments on matters where Republicans have a chance to either break up the Democrats' winning coalition or embarrass them."

House Republicans: Driving Our Message

The Florida Times-Union

Hold on to your wallets

“The average Floridian, according to Americans for Tax Reform, would pay \$3,000 a year more in taxes. That's a lot of money for families ... Not only would that lower standards of living, **it would slow or reverse job creation, which had increased since the 2003 tax cuts were signed.** Does Congress want to reverse *that* trend?” (Editorial, 5/1/07)

The Washington Post

Democrats' Momentum Is Stalling

“The voters seem to have noticed the stall ... 73 percent of Americans believe Congress has done ‘not too much’ or ‘nothing at all.’” (5/5/07)

San Francisco Chronicle

GOP keeps the heat turned up on Pelosi

(5/10/07)

THE POLITICO

Dems bend rules, break pledge

“Democrats broke their campaign pledge to run a more open and honest Congress during their much-ballyhooed ‘first 100 hours’ in power when they introduced five bills on the floor without moving them first through committee or allowing Rules Committee Republicans to dissent.”
(5/17/07)

The Washington Post

Nancy Pelosi's foolish shuttle diplomacy

(Editorial, 4/5/07)

House Republicans: Driving Our Message

The Washington Post

Retreat and Butter

Are Democrats in the House voting for farm subsidies or withdrawal from Iraq?
(Editorial, 3/23/07)



Pork has no place in 'emergency' war bill

Larding the Iraq funding legislation cheapens the debate over pullout.
(Editorial, 3/22/07)

The Washington Times

**Democrats 0 for 6 in Congress; agenda sidetracked
by Iraq war**
(3/21/07)



“Democratic Congressman Slams 'Idiot Liberals'”

(3/9/07)



Democrats Want Gitmo Prisoners Sent to U.S.

(3/7/07)

House Republicans: Driving Our Message

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Big Labor’s “Payback Day”

Big Labor “made it clear to Democrats that this vote would be the most important return they expected on their investment in a Nancy Pelosi Speakership. This is payback day.”
(Editorial, 3/1/07)

The Washington Post

Murtha Stumbles on Iraq Funding Curbs

Democrats Were Ill-Prepared for Unplanned Disclosure, Republican Attacks
(2/25/07)



**Democrats risk extremist image, party divisions on Iraq
debate**

(2/16/07)



Rep. Murtha touts way to choke off Iraq war

(2/15/07)

Reality Check: Democrats Accomplish “None in ‘07”

Remember When: “House Democrats met the goals of their 100-hour legislative offensive with plenty of time to spare on Thursday, claiming that their successes proved they could govern.”
 (New York Times, 1/19/07)

Democrat Promises	Reality Check
<p>Speaker Pelosi: “During the election campaign, House Democrats promised to take our country in a New Direction, to change the way Congress does business, and to get to work addressing the real challenges facing the American people ...Democrats are setting our sights beyond the first 100 hours to make America safe and strong.” (Pelosi Release, 1/18/07)</p> <p>“Democrats are committed to addressing the critical issues that confront our nation.” (Majority Leader Hoyer Release, 11/07/06)</p>	<p>“Still unanswered is whether Democrats will deliver on their campaign promises... House Democrats’ ‘Six for ‘06’ campaign pledge has so far amounted to ‘None in ‘07.’” (Washington Post Editorial, 5/13/07)</p> <p>“Not a single priority on the Democrats’ agenda has been enacted... The voters seem to have noticed the stall. An ABC News-Washington Post poll last month found that 73 percent of Americans believe Congress has done ‘not too much’ or ‘nothing at all.’” (Washington Post, 5/05/07)</p> <p>“Democrats face a legislative traffic jam that threatens to leave the party without a single high-profile domestic victory heading into the Memorial Day recess.” (CQ, 5/14/07)</p> <p>“Since taking over Congress this year, the Democrats have only passed 26 laws, 12 of which ‘changed the name of a federal building, post office or national recreation area’...Remember the hoopla about Pelosi’s first ‘hundred hours’? The 110th Congress has now passed the 100-day mark. What has it done?” (INVESTOR’S BUSINESS DAILY, 5/16/07)</p> <p>“House Democrats suddenly are balking at the tough lobbying reforms they touted to voters last fall as a reason for putting them in charge of Congress.</p> <p>Now that they are running things, many Democrats want to keep the big campaign donations and lavish parties that lobbyists put together for them.” (Associated Press, 5/11/07)</p>

Democrats
 Failure to
 Govern

The Washington Post

Democrats' Momentum Is Stalling

Amid Iraq Debate, Priorities On Domestic Agenda Languish
Saturday, May 5, 2007; A01

In the heady opening weeks of the 110th Congress, the Democrats' domestic agenda appeared to be flying through the Capitol: Homeland security upgrades, a higher minimum wage and student loan interest rate cuts all passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

But now that initial progress has foundered as Washington policymakers have been consumed with the debate over the [Iraq](#) war. Not a single priority on the Democrats' agenda has been enacted, and some in the party are growing nervous that the "do nothing" tag they slapped on Republicans last year could come back to haunt them.

"We cannot be a one-trick pony," said House Democratic Caucus Chairman [Rahm Emanuel \(Ill.\)](#), who helped engineer his party's takeover of Congress as head of the [Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee](#). "People voted for change, but Iraq, the economy and Washington, D.C., [corruption] all tied for first place. We need to do them all."

The "Six for '06" policy agenda on which Democrats campaigned last year was supposed to consist of low-hanging fruit, plucked and put in the basket to allow Congress to move on to tougher targets. House Democrats took just 10 days to pass a minimum-wage increase, a bill to implement most of the homeland security recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission, a measure allowing federal funding for stem cell research, another to cut student-loan rates, a bill allowing the federal government to negotiate drug prices under Medicare, and a rollback of tax breaks for oil and gas companies to finance alternative-energy research.

The Senate struck out on its own, with a broad overhaul of the rules on lobbying Congress.

Not one of those bills has been signed into law. [President Bush](#) signed 16 measures into law through April, six more than were signed by this time in the previous Congress. But beyond a huge domestic spending bill that wrapped up work left undone by Republicans last year, the list of achievements is modest: a beefed-up board to oversee congressional pages in the wake of the [Mark Foley](#) scandal, and the renaming of six post offices, including one for Gerald R. Ford in Vail, [Colo.](#), as well as two courthouses, including one for [Rush Limbaugh Sr.](#) in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

The minimum-wage bill got stalled in a fight with the Senate over tax breaks to go along with the wage increase. In frustration, Democratic leaders inserted a minimum-wage agreement into a bill to fund the Iraq war, only to see it vetoed.

Democrats
Failure to
Govern

Similar homeland security bills were passed by the House and the Senate, only to languish as attention shifted to the Iraq debate. Last week, family members of those killed on Sept. 11, 2001, gathered in Washington to demand action.

"We've waited five and a half years since 9/11," said Carie Lemack, whose mother died aboard one of the planes that crashed into the [World Trade Center in New York](#). "We waited three years since the 9/11 commission. We can't wait anymore."

House and Senate staff members have begun meeting, with the goal of reporting out a final bill by Memorial Day, but they concede that the deadline is likely to slip, in part because members of the homeland security committees of both chambers, the [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#) and the two intelligence committees all want their say. The irony, Lemack said, is that such cumbersomeness is precisely why the Sept. 11 commission recommended the creation of powerful umbrella security committees with such broad jurisdiction that other panels could not muscle their way in. That was one recommendation Congress largely disregarded.

The Medicare drug-negotiations bill died in the Senate, after Republicans refused to let it come up for debate. House Democrats are threatening to attach the bill to must-pass government funding bills.

[Sen. Edward M. Kennedy](#) (D-Mass.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, has proposed his own student-loan legislation, but it is to be part of a huge higher-education bill that may not reach the committee until June.

The House's relatively simple energy bill faces a similar fate. The Senate has in mind a much larger bill that would ease bringing alternative fuels to market, regulate oil and gas futures trading, raise vehicle and appliance efficiency standards, and reform federal royalty payments to finance new energy technologies.

The voters seem to have noticed the stall. An [ABC News-Washington Post](#) poll last month found that 73 percent of Americans believe Congress has done "not too much" or "nothing at all." A memo from the Democratic polling firm Democracy Corps warned last month that the stalemate between Congress and Bush over the war spending bill has knocked down the favorable ratings of Congress and the Democrats by three percentage points and has taken a greater toll on the public's hope for a productive Congress.

"The primary message coming out of the November election was that the American people are sick and tired of the fighting and the gridlock, and they want both the president and Congress to start governing the country," warned [Leon E. Panetta](#), a chief of staff in [Bill Clinton's White House](#). "It just seems to me the Democrats, if they fail for whatever reason to get a domestic agenda enacted . . . will pay a price."

Republicans are already trying to extract that price. [Sen. Jon Kyl](#) ([Ariz.](#)), chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, said Democrats are just "trying to score political points on the war. . . . Part of their party can't conceive of anything else to talk about but the war."

Norman J. Ornstein, a Congress watcher at the [American Enterprise Institute](#), said a Congress's productivity is not measured solely on the number of bills signed into law. Bills and resolutions approved by either chamber totaled 165 during the first four months of this Congress, compared with 72 in 2005. And Congress recorded 415 roll-call votes, compared with 264 when Republicans were in charge and the House [GOP](#) leaders struggled to impose their agenda on a closely divided Senate.

Democratic leaders remain hopeful that a burst of activity will put the doubts about them to rest. They have promised to pass a war funding bill and a minimum-wage increase that Bush can sign, to complete a budget blueprint and to finish the homeland security bill by Memorial Day. The House wants to pass defense and intelligence bills, its own lobbying measure and the first gun-control legislation since 1994, which would tighten the national instant-check system for gun purchases. The Senate hopes to complete a comprehensive overhaul of immigration laws.

[Rep. Chris Van Hollen](#) (Md.), chairman of the House Democratic campaign committee, said his party needs to get some achievements under its belt, but not until voters begin to focus on the campaigns next year. "People understand the Democrats in Congress are doing everything in their power to move an agenda forward, doing everything possible to change direction in the war in Iraq, and the president is standing in the way," he said.

Kyl was not so sanguine. If accomplishments are not in the books by this fall, he said, the Democrats will find their achievements eclipsed by the 2008 presidential race. Panetta agreed.

"This leadership, these Democrats have shown that they can fight," he said. "Now they have to show they can govern."

Cut, Slash & Slow-Bleed: The Same-Old, Same-Old Democrat National Security Plan

Slash Homeland Security Funding and Protections? CHECK!
Cut CIA Funds and Use Intel Resources to Study the Climate? CHECK!
Slow-Bleed Funding & Equipment for Troops in Iraq? CHECK!
Make America More Vulnerable to Missile Attacks? CHECK!

Slash Homeland Security Funding On May 9, 2007, House Democrats slashed important protections from an annual Homeland Security bill, protections that keep us safe. Among the programs Democrats did not think important enough to keep in the bill:

- Checking the immigration status of workers at airports and power plants (Sec. 1104)
- Using first responder grants to fund training and exercises (Sec. 1101)
- Protecting America's food supply from attack (Sec. 606)
- Biometric identification of individuals captured trying to enter the country (Sec. 907)

No to Terrorist Identification System What's more, on the same day, House Democrats also voted against a key 9/11 Commission recommendation. Republicans proposed an amendment to the Homeland Security bill that would strengthen the process that identifies criminals and terrorists trying to enter the United States. This real-time, successful system has helped keep us safe, and the Republican proposal would make this program federal law, protecting it for the future. Yet 160 Democrats voted NO.

Cut CIA Funds, Use Intel Resources to Study the Clouds Today, Democrats will attempt to pass an intelligence bill that includes "deep cuts to classified CIA programs designed to help America fight and succeed in the conflict against radical jihadists," according to Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Pete Hoekstra (R-MI).

Not only that, it will divert funds to study, of all things, the clouds. The Democrat bill requires America's intelligence community to prepare a National Intelligence Estimate on climate change – a months-long, labor-intensive process normally used to assess the situation in Iraq or the plans of terrorist groups.

Slow-Bleed Troops, Delay Equipment Democrats continue to advance their slow-bleed plan version 4.0, where they set July 31 as a cut-off date for troop funding. The Democrat bill puts troop funding on a monthly installment plan and the troops' bullets and body armor on layaway. The Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said the Democrat slow-bleed plan would have a "huge impact" and "dramatic consequences," including a delay in the speedy deployment of a new troop vehicle called the "MRAP" that better protects personnel from mines, rocket and IED attacks.

Secretary Gates also warned that, if the Democrats' cut-off funds in July, he "would have to shut down significant elements of the Department of Defense in August and September."

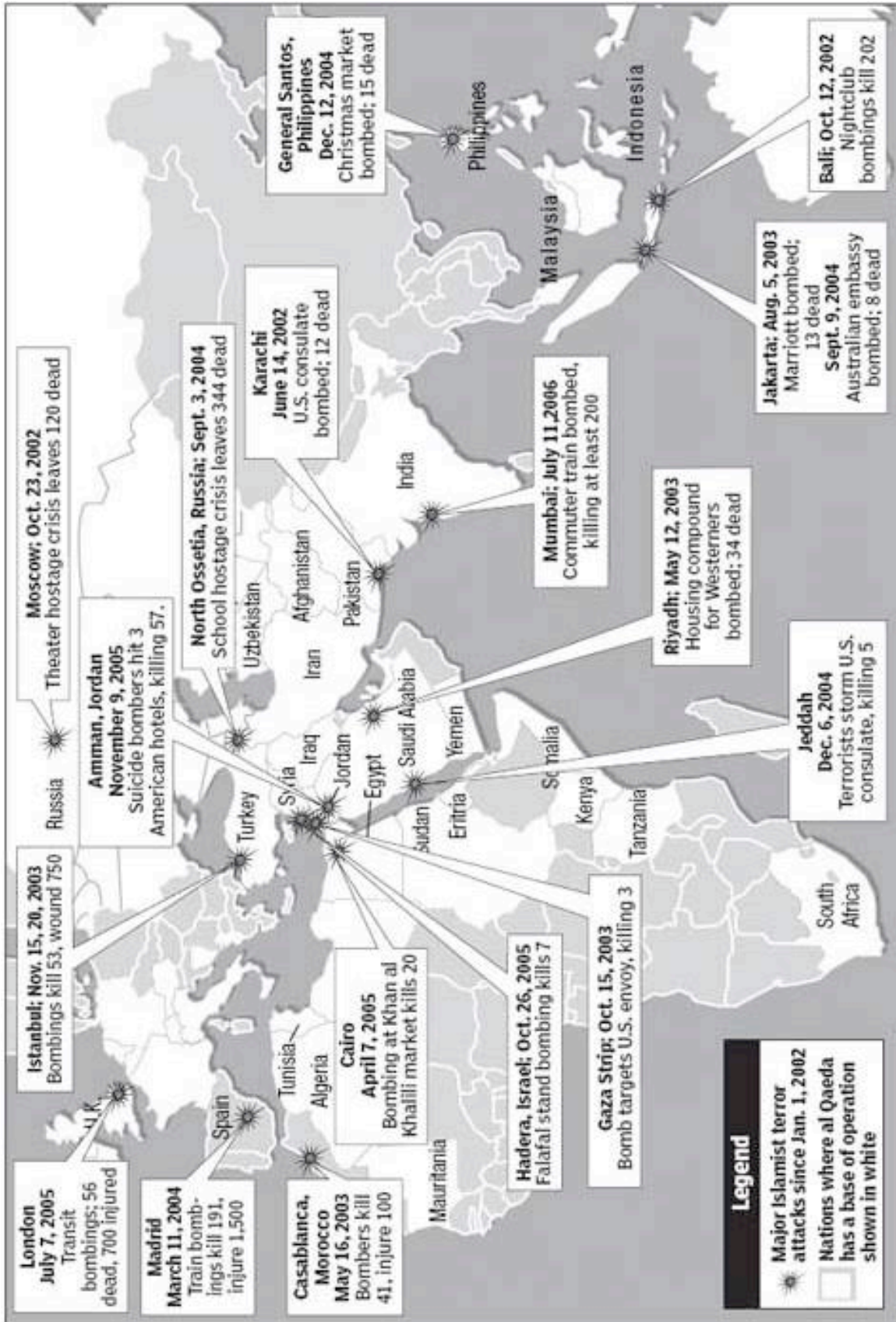
Impressive that in one day Democrats completely ignored the lessons learned on 9-11 and destroyed 5 years of Republican strengthening of National Security.

Slash Missile Defense Funds in Face of Missile Threat The Defense Authorization Act of 2008 drastically scaled back our missile defense programs. At a time when both North Korea and Iran are aggressively pursuing both missile technology and nuclear weapons, Democrats cut more than \$776 million in missile defense spending. Republicans succeeded in adding back \$205 million for missile defense.

This is not a partisan debate. The CIA during the Clinton Administration warned that by 2015, the "United States most likely will face ICBM threats from North Korea, probably from Iran."

The cuts Democrats are making are not academic, nor are they exclusive to programs in the research stages. They will "prevent breaking ground on the [missile defense] interceptor silos in Poland," according to the New York Times. Meanwhile, our allies in Europe and Asia are urging the United States to install these defenses and press ahead with research.

Major Terror Attacks by Radical Islamists Since Jan. 1, 2002



Democrats
 Failure to
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Some Kind of Plan: Gas Nears \$3.50/gal. in California

Democrats
 Failure to
 Govern

The More Dems Promise The More Americans Pay
<p>“Democrats have a plan to lower gas prices...join Democrats who are working to lower gas prices now.”</p> <p>-- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA), Release, 4/19/06; CNN, 4/25/06</p>	<p><u>California</u></p> <p>\$3.45/gal.</p>
<p>“Democrats believe that we can do more for the American people who are struggling to deal with high gas prices...We have offered legislation that would actually do something about the rise in gasoline prices...”</p> <p>-- Democrat Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Release, 10/4/05</p>	<p><u>Maryland</u></p> <p>\$3.09/gal.</p>
<p>“House Democrats have a plan to help curb rising gas prices.”</p> <p>-- Democrat Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC), Online Town Meeting, 7/26/06</p>	<p><u>South Carolina</u></p> <p>\$2.97/gal.</p>
<p>“With gasoline and other prices rising, ‘America's middle-class families deserve better’ ... ‘Nobody thinks \$2.50 a gallon is cheap; it’s still expensive.’”</p> <p>-- Democrat Caucus Chairman Rahm Emanuel (D-IL), CBS News, 6/2/06; New York Times, 9/30/06</p>	<p><u>Illinois</u></p> <p>\$3.44/gal.</p> <p>Source: AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report (5/20/07)</p>

How Democrats Hide Their Earmarks from the Sunshine

What Your Constituents Don't Know – *But They Should*

Remember when House Democrats promised to shine a spotlight on earmarks and expose them to greater scrutiny and debate? We do. Recall this:

Speaker Nancy Pelosi: “[I]f there's an earmark that can stand the scrutiny, then that transparency will give the opportunity for it to be there.” (News conference, 3/17/06)

Majority Leader Steny Hoyer: “We are going to adopt rules that make the system of legislation transparent so that we don't legislate in the dark of night ... We need to have [earmarks] subject to [more] debate. That's what debate and public awareness is all about. Democracy works if people know what's going on.” (TPMCafe.com, 11/15/06)

Turns out this rhetoric has gone down the same black hole as the other Democrat broken promises. The Politico has the goods:

“So far this year, Democrats have frequently prevented Republicans from offering amendments, limited debate in the committee and, just last week, maneuvered around chamber rules to protect a \$23 million project for Rep. Jack Murtha.” (Politico, 5/17/07)

There's more. Not only are Democrats denying Republicans the ability to offer amendments removing earmarks, but their own rules prohibit the House from debating whether earmark regulations were broken or whether an earmark merits a single cent of taxpayers' money.

When Republicans were in the majority, our rules allowed Members to raise objections to bills to see if they complied with the broader Rules of the House. These objections, known as “points of order” in parliamentary jargon, would be recognized by the presiding officer of the House and time would be allotted to debate it.

But the Democrats have changed the rules to cover-up their own earmarks.

Members can still raise objections about the rules, just not the new one requiring identification of earmarks tucked inside a bill as well as the Member who sponsored it. A member can try to raise the objection, but it will not be recognized nor will time be allotted to debate it. The House will simply move on to other business without a single breath devoted to the earmark.

The bottom line: Democrat rules now require earmarks to be listed, but they do not allow the earmark to be debated or have its merits judged. No sunshine. No transparency.

Not exactly the change Democrats promised the American people.

Promises Made, Promises Broken Democrats Censor Debate on Earmarks

Democrats
 Failure to
 Govern

Dems Promised Earmark Debate	"680 Earmarks," No Debate Allowed
<p>"[B]efore members vote on the bill, there should be an appropriate time for people to be able to read it, that it be a matter of public record. <u>And if there's an earmark that can stand the scrutiny, then that transparency will give the opportunity for it to be there.</u>"</p> <p>-- Speaker Nancy Pelosi, news conference, 3/17/06</p> <p>"We are going to adopt rules that <u>make the system of legislation transparent so that we don't legislate in the dark of night,</u> and the public and other members can see what is being done."</p> <p>"<u>We need to have [earmarks] subject to [more] debate.</u> That's what debate and public awareness is all about. <u>Democracy works if people know what's going on.</u>"</p> <p>-- House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Q&A with TPMCafe.com, 11/15/06</p>	<p><u>Rep. Jeff Flake</u> (R-AZ): "The committee, the authorizing committee, saw fit to include <u>some 680 earmarks that we got news of just yesterday in the bill.</u></p> <p>"Yet <u>I offered four amendments to debate these earmarks and wasn't allowed any of them.</u></p> <p>"If they can allow 680 earmarks at the last minute in the bill, would <u>you think the Rules Committee could have seen fit to at least allow debate on a few of them...</u></p> <p>"Our role here should be to ensure that our defense dollars are spent on defense. Not economic revitalization. Not non-defense private ventures. That's why these amendments were offered.</p> <p>"Unfortunately the only shot we might have at checking these amendments is in the appropriation process. <u>By the time we get there, the members will say, these projects were authorized, implying there was some sort of scrutiny given when there surely has not been.</u></p> <p>"So I unfortunately we cannot support this rule. <u>It doesn't allow debate on any of the 680 earmarks in the bill.</u>"</p> <p>(Rep. Flake, Remarks on the House Floor, 5/16/07)</p>

TALKING POINTS: Democrat Tax Hike Plans Threaten Strong Economy

Republican tax-relief and pro-growth policies have led to America's strong economy today.

- ✓ **The deficit is down 54 percent**, or \$103 billion, so far this fiscal year. Record tax revenues – spurred by GOP tax cuts – and spending restraint are helping to lower the federal deficit. (May Treasury report)
- ✓ **7.8 million jobs were created since Aug. 2003**, more than all the other major industrialized nations combined. April was the 44th straight month of job gains. The 4.5 percent jobless rate is a six year low.
- ✓ **The Dow Jones Industrial Average topped 13,000** for the first time in April, up from 7,700 in mid-2002.

Democrat plans for what promises to be the second largest tax hike in American history hurts taxpayers and our economy

- The Democrat-passed budget contains a tax increase of at least \$217 billion by fiscal year 2012. It includes tax hikes on marginal rates, capital gains rates, dividend taxes, and more.
- **PAYTAX**: Dems will use pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules as an excuse to raise taxes, not cut spending.
- **Entitlement negligence**: This year Republicans proposed – and Democrats opposed – a budget to lower the federal deficit by \$279 billion over 5 years. If the Democrats continue with their runaway spending, they will be forced to eliminate all entitlement programs or increase taxes by 60 percent.
- **More Big Spending**: Tucked away in the Democrat budget is a provision to automatically increase the debt limit by \$850 billion, raising it above \$9 trillion for the first time in American history without a separate vote.

Democrats plan to “fix” Alternative Minimum Tax with a stealth tax hike on all Americans.

- **The Democrats plan to raise taxes by \$650 billion** on personal and capital gains income to fix the AMT. This means a massive tax hike on many small businesses, farmers and ordinary investors.
- **The AMT was created in the 1960s by Democrats**. The current problems date to 1993, when President Clinton and the Democratic Congress jacked up the AMT rates and failed to index them for inflation. Republicans voted to abolish the AMT in 1999, but President Clinton vetoed the bill.
 - If no action is taken this year, 25 million workers will be subject to the AMT, which was originally designed to affect only the very wealthy.
- **Democrat plan a danger for our economy and workers**: MKM Partners Chief Economist warns: “I can’t think of a better way to throw the economy into recession and end the bull market expansion of recent years than to raise tax rates like this.” (Wall Street Journal, 4/30/07) National Review’s Larry Kudlow says Democrat plans “would significantly reduce the amount of capital supplied to the economy for all manner of growth and job creation ... [and] damage the outlook for all businesses and wage earners throughout the economy.” (National Review Online, 5/15/07)

Bit by Bit, Democrats Pay Back Big Labor

“We will play the largest role we’ve ever played in electing the candidates we’ve endorsed in many of the pivotal, competitive races for the House and Senate.”

-- AFL-CIO President John Sweeney (CNN, 9/4/06)

“We’ll be keeping tabs on who’s with us and who’s against us.”

-- SEIU/Teamsters-backed “Change to Win” coalition. (Business Week, 11/10/06)

“Instead of prowling around the Capitol’s marble hallways, **the labor lobbyists got to set up shop in an office in the Capitol suite of House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.)**... ‘They made available some phones and a TV so we could follow the debate,’ said one labor lobbyist. ‘It was nice of them to make it available, so we could stay out of the cold.’” (Roll Call newspaper, 3/05/07)

Week after week, House Democrats proposed and passed bills big and small to reward Big Labor for its support last fall. How have Democrats paid their Big Labor patrons back?



Abolished Secret Union Ballots

- Democrats eliminated the 72-year-old worker protection of the secret union ballot. Unions could be recognized based on a public showing of signed authorization cards, subjecting workers to intimidation and strong-arming.
- *The Wall Street Journal*: “And prior to last year’s election, the AFL-CIO, AFSCME and their allies made it clear to Democrats that this vote would be the most important return they expected on their investment in a Nancy Pelosi Speakership. This is payback day.” (Editorial, 3/1/07)
- *San Francisco Examiner*: “Stop Democrats’ Big Labor Payoff ... EFCA is Big Labor’s No. 1 legislative priority for the 110th Congress.” (Editorial, 3/1/07)
- *Detroit News*: “The move is clearly a payoff for big labor’s help in the election.” (Editorial, 12/26/06)
- *George Will in the Washington Post*: “Labor unions hope this [bill]... will compensate for their dwindling persuasiveness as they try to persuade workers to join.” (2/27/07)
- **Nearly all Democrats (228) voted YES.** (H.R. 800, Vote #117, 3/1/07)



Job-Killing Minimum Wage Increase

- Democrats increased the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour, and applied the minimum wage to the Northern Mariana Islands (but not American Samoa), disregarding any relief for small businesses burdened by paying the higher wage.
- **All Democrats (233) voted YES.** (H.R. 2, Vote #18, 1/10/07)



Set Wages for Construction Workers, Increased Costs for Taxpayers

- Democrats used water development legislation to pass an unprecedented expansion of federal Davis-Bacon “prevailing wage” requirements into state-financed Clean Water Act revolving funds, mandating construction wages and increasing the cost of public works projects to taxpayers footing the bill.
- **All Democrats (224) voted YES.** (H.R. 720, Vote #135, 3/9/07)



Allowed Airport Security Screeners to Unionize, Strike

- Unlike airport traffic controllers, Democrats allowed Transportation Security Administration airport security screeners to unionize, adding a dangerous layer of labor union negotiations that would hinder the TSA’s ability to protect travelers. The pro-labor payback was included in a bill implementing some, but not all, of the remaining 9/11 commission recommendations.
- “By TSA’s estimate, union rules would also require pulling some 8 percent of the work force offline to meet new management demands. This would require either closing screening lanes or adding thousands of new screeners at more cost to taxpayers.” (Wall Street Journal, Editorial, 3/6/07)
- **All Democrats (231) voted YES.** (H.R. 1, Vote #15, 1/9/07)



Boosted Big Labor Pension Refunds, Relaxed Obligation Rules

- The Democrat emergency war supplemental for the troops also relaxes funding obligations for union pension plans (allowing unions to put in few contributions to their worker pension plans even if they are underfunded) while keeping stricter rules in place for plans sponsored by non-union employers. In addition, the bill increases cash refunds for union plans above what non-union employer plans receive.
- **Nearly all Democrats (219) voted YES.** (H.R. 2206, Vote #333, 5/10/07)



Passed Teacher Union-Backed Resolution for Higher Child Care Wages

- Democrats proposed a non-binding but meaningful resolution expressing support for increased wages for child care workers, income “commensurate with the importance of their job” and with “their training and experience,” according to the bill text.
- The resolution supported “National Child Care Worthy Wage Day,” a program sponsored by the Center for the Child Care Workforce, a “project of the American Federation of Teachers,” one of the country’s largest labor unions.
- **All Democrats (223) voted YES.** (H. Con. Res. 112, Vote # 271, 5/1/07)

TALKING POINTS: Washington Democrats and Big Labor Giveaways

In the midst of a period of overall decline, Big Labor spent tens of millions of dollars last cycle to see a Democrat majority elected in the Congress.

- Private-sector union membership fell to 7.4 percent in 2006, a record low. (Bureau of Labor Statistics) "Labor loses about 500,000 members a year, said labor historian David Brody, a professor emeritus at UC Davis." (*Los Angeles Times*, 2/26/07)
- "We will play **the largest role we've ever played** in electing the candidates we've endorsed in many of the pivotal, competitive races for the House and Senate," AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said. (CNN, 9/4/06)
- **Big Labor has historically supported Washington Democrats in large numbers.** A whopping 92% of the labor's sector political contributions since 1990 went to Democrats. (Big Oil, on the other hand, gave 76% to Republicans.) (*Wall Street Journal*, 2/2/07)

House Democrats made clear early on that they would unabashedly move Big Labor giveaways – even at the expense of national security.

- During the First 100 Hours, as part of the 9/11 commission recommendations bill, House Democrats included a provision that would give union rights to airport screeners at the Transportation Security Administration. *The Washington Post* called it "**a signal that the new Congress will be open to the arguments of organized labor on federal personnel issues.**" (*The Washington Post*, 1/9/07)
- Collective bargaining rights would add a dangerous layer of labor union negotiations that would hinder the TSA's ability to protect travelers. According to *The Wall Street Journal*: "By TSA's estimate, union rules would also require pulling some 8% of the work force offline to meet new management demands. **This would require either closing screening lanes or adding thousands of new screeners at more cost to taxpayers.**" (Editorial, 3/6/07)

In early March, House Democrats passed Big Labor's #1 legislative priority – a proposal that provides unions with a shortcut to organizing at the expense of employee rights.

- "Labor unions hope this ... will **compensate for their dwindling persuasiveness** as they try to persuade workers to join. It would allow unions to organize workplaces without workers voting for unionization in elections with secret ballots. Instead, unions could use the 'card check' system: Once a majority of a company's employees signs a card expressing consent, the union is automatically certified as the bargaining agent for all the workers." (George Will op-ed, *The Washington Post*, 2/27/07)

- **The Wall Street Journal**: “And prior to last year's election, the AFL-CIO, AFSCME and their allies made it clear to Democrats that this vote would be the most important return they expected on their investment in a Nancy Pelosi Speakership. **This is payback day.**” (Editorial, 3/1/07)
- **San Francisco Examiner**: “Stop Democrats’ **Big Labor Payoff** ... EFCA is Big Labor’s No. 1 legislative priority for the 110th Congress ... California’s Miller is a longtime Big Labor favorite, receiving nearly 64 percent of his 2006 campaign war chest from unions and nearly 55 percent during his career, according to OpenSecrets.org. Miller has served his Big Labor donors well this year” (Editorial, 3/1/07)
- **Detroit News**: “The move is clearly a **payoff for big labor's help in the election.**” (Editorial, 12/26/06)

Democrats inserted a major Big Labor handout into a water projects bill – a provision that will cost the taxpayers.

- A provision in the Water Quality Financing Act of 2007 requires local governments to apply Davis-Bacon wage provisions to all the projects covered in the bill. This essentially shields unions from competition.
- The Heritage Foundation said that “this would represent a massive expansion of a special-interest handout to union members at the direct expense of local taxpayers.” This Big Labor giveaway “would redistribute income from taxpayers to unionized construction workers, while making it more expensive for communities to build new water treatment plants.” ([Heritage Foundation, 3/15/07](#))

TALKING POINTS: Democrat Lobby Reform Plan

Speaker's Ethics Task Force Chair Rep. Michael Capuano (D-MA) "is among a group of Democrats who say lobbying overhaul is not an issue that resonates with voters." (CQ, 5/16/07)

OUR PRINCIPLE: The American people have a constitutional right to "petition the Government for a redress of grievances," and there should be greater transparency and accountability in the lobbying industry. After the corruption witnessed in both parties, the American people deserve strong reform, not broken promises.

Democrats' copycat proposal is similar to past Republican reform plans. In May of last year, 192 Democrats voted against H.R. 4975, the GOP's "Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act." The Democrats will consider their own lobbying bill before the Memorial Day work period, and it is substantially the same as the Republican proposal last year. Both bills:

- Continue the current one-year prohibition of Members from lobbying Congress after they leave.
- Require Members to disclose negotiations with potential employers to avoid conflicts of interests.
- Mandates quarterly, electronic disclosure of lobbyist activity to a public database.
- Increase fines and criminal penalties for breaking lobbying regulations.

Democrats are quick to backtrack on reform promises now that they are in the majority. Rank-and-file Democrats complained actually following through on their pledges would **harm their ability to raise lobbyist cash and find lucrative employment after they left Congress.**

- Democrat "**leaders scrapped a campaign pledge to double the current one-year ban on lobbying** by departing lawmakers and senior staff members. **Democratic leaders in the House faced a rank-and-file revolt** over the measure, which would significantly cramp the ability of lawmakers to cash in on their government service for million-dollar paychecks..." (New York Times, 5/18/07)
- "Last year, nearly all Democrats voted for legislation sponsored by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) that would have extended the lobby ban to two years. **Now that Democrats are in the majority and their votes carry more weight, their support for it has waned.**" (The Hill, 5/18/07)
- "They did this after a group of Blue Dogs, and members of the Congressional Black and Hispanic Caucuses threatened to torpedo the bill, **contending that it would hurt their ability to earn money after they left Congress...**" (Politico, 5/18/07)

Government watchdogs are slamming Democrats for breaking their campaign promises.

- "It's not a very impressive performance by the Democratic caucus that promised to make this Congress the cleanest in history," said Craig Holman of Public Citizen. (San Francisco Chronicle, 5/18/07)

TALKING POINTS: Democrats Quietly Killing Abstinence Education, Despite Research and Public Support

OUR PRINCIPLE: House Democrats' move to quietly eliminate federally funded abstinence education programs shortchanges our youth, leaving them ill-equipped to make the most responsible decisions regarding sexual activity. It also ignores research and the will of the majority of American parents.

We should be increasing funding for abstinence education programs, not stopping it. The democrats' hidden agenda to do away with abstinence education is out of touch with the majority of American parents.

- The federal government spends \$12 promoting contraception-based education for every \$1 spent on abstinence.
- Nearly 60 percent of parents believe that funding for abstinence education should be increased (Zogby International, 5/03/07).

Abstinence education teaches children the social, psychological and health value of abstinence and provides them with the tools and the confidence to make responsible decisions. The abstinence program focuses on three principles:

- **Sexual activity out-of-wedlock is not the accepted norm for school age children.**
- **Children and young adults who are sexually active are significantly more vulnerable to social, psychological, and health problems,** including: increased sexually transmitted disease infection rates, increased rates of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, increased abortion, and increased depression.
- **Alcohol and drug use increases children's vulnerability to sexual advances.** It is important that children recognize these dangers and are equipped with the knowledge to resist peer-pressure and make responsible decisions.

The public supports Abstinence Education because it works. Despite the support of the majority of parents, Democrats are discretely looking to gut funding for abstinence education

- According to a Zogby poll, 78 percent of parents think greater emphasis should be placed on abstinence, as opposed to contraceptive use, in sex education classes.
- **Abstinence education effectively reduces teen sexual activity.** According a study done by the journal *Adolescent and Family Health*, the major cause of declining birth and pregnancy rates among teenage was abstinence education.
- Uganda has successfully reduced HIV rates among young people by promoting abstinence.

Contraception: yes, abstinence: no?

By U.S. Rep. Dave Camp (R-Midland)

A push by Democrat leaders in Washington, D.C., to quietly eliminate federally funded abstinence education programs spurns all commonsense and is exactly the kind of misguided, out of touch approach that parents and grandparents find insulting.

Promoting access to contraception while eliminating abstinence only programs, which is what these Democrats are proposing, is nothing short of encouraging young teens to have sex. It is absolutely the wrong message for the federal government to be sending and exactly the opposite kind of help we should be providing parents.

With national news being controlled by the likes of the New York Times, it is no surprise that you may not have heard about this issue yet. Trust me, it is happening.

On Wednesday, May 16, 2007, an insider, congressional news publication reported key Democrats confirmed that they will not reauthorize the abstinence program which is set to expire June 30. According to *CQ Today* this position is supported by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco, CA).

This shouldn't be a partisan issue, and I truly hope that mainstream Democrats will join Republicans to prevent their leaders from abolishing this critical program. Originally created under the 1996 welfare reform act, "abstinence education" includes programs that have an exclusive purpose of teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by minors abstaining from sexual activity, and teach that:

- ✓ Abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage is the expected standard for all school age children;
- ✓ Abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems; and
- ✓ Giving young people the know-how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances.

With those parameters it is no wonder a recent Zogby International poll found that once parents understood what abstinence education teaches, six out of 10 parents preferred their child receive abstinence only education to comprehensive sex education.

This is a big deal and we currently spend almost \$200 million a year teaching abstinence; not enough in my opinion. In 2002, the government spent \$12 promoting contraception-based sex education for every \$1 spent on abstinence-only programs. We should be narrowing that gap, not making it worse.

Overall the program provides \$50 million annually in mandatory grants to states and an additional \$110 million in discretionary spending teach abstinence as a part of sex

education classes. The states match the federal money with an additional \$37.5 million. That will all disappear if the Democrat leadership has its way.

The Zogby telephone survey, which contacted 1002 parents with kids between the ages of 10 and 16, found that 78 percent think sex education classes in public schools should place greater emphasis on abstinence than contraceptive use. Almost 60 percent said abstinence education should be funded at higher levels.

Parents know what they are talking about, and they know that abstinence works. I have been involved in the issue of reducing teen pregnancies for a number of years and I know how well programs like the Virginity Pledge, Not Me-Not Now, and Operation Keepsake programs work. In some cases, sexual activity was reduced by as much as two-thirds by promoting abstinence. The journal *Adolescent and Family Health* found in a 2003 study that abstinence was the major cause of declining birth and pregnancy rates among teenage girls.

Abstinence-education programs do work. We should be doing more to promote abstinence, not less.

###

TALKING POINTS: A Bipartisan Approach to Free Trade

OUR PRINCIPLE: We live in a global economy, and our economic well-being depends on our ability to trade freely around the world. It is essential to remain competitive in the global marketplace. Free trade agreements help create jobs here at home and raise the standard of living in developing nations around the world. We applaud bipartisan cooperation in Congress to move these essential agreements forward.

McCrery, Rangel and Schwab reach breakthrough, bipartisan agreement on consideration of trade bills. This agreement will help lower trade barriers in important markets, keep America competitive and create jobs here at home.

- The newly reached agreement among Ways & Means Committee Chairman Charlie Rangel, Ranking Member Jim McCrery and U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab will allow the U.S. to more quickly implement free trade agreements with Peru and Panama while accelerating the opening of markets with Columbia and Korea.

This agreement raises the bar among our trading partners. The agreement will help improve our trading partners' standards on labor, environmental regulation, intellectual property, port security and investment. According to the agreement, future trade pacts will adhere to the following principles:

- **Improve labor conditions around the world** by adhering to the 1998 International Labor Organization Declaration, to which the U.S. is already in compliance.
- **Strengthen environmental protection and enforcement** by adhering to multilateral agreements to which the U.S. is a party in full compliance.
- **Safeguard intellectual property rights** by balancing access to lower-cost generic medications with the need to encourage research and innovation for future treatments.
- **Secure our ports** by giving the U.S. the ability to prevent foreign companies from providing port security services if our national security is threatened.
- **Protect American companies and workers** by preventing foreign companies from receiving greater investment security than domestic companies.

The agreement will maintain U.S. status as a world leader on trade. It serves as a template to extend Trade Promotion Authority, which the President needs to make sure that the United States continues to lead in the World Trade Organization Doha negotiations.

- Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Jim McCrery said: "It is of the utmost importance that we continue to be a world leader in trade. As we debate, Europe and our other trading partners are concluding their own free trade agreements around the world. Failing to move our agreements and Trade Promotion Authority would put the United States at a substantial disadvantage in the international economy."

TALKING POINTS: Medicare and Medicare Advantage

OUR PRINCIPLE: Seniors need and deserve the highest quality health care. The Republican-passed Medicare drug benefit and Medicare Advantage plans are providing quality care to seniors and saving them money.

90 percent of seniors now have drug coverage through Medicare. “Eighty percent of seniors are satisfied with their coverage.” (Washington Post, 11/26/06)

- **Democrat Medicare price control bills will not lower prices,** they will only restrict seniors’ access to the drugs they need by rationing medicines.

The Medicare Advantage program is a critical health program for more than 8 million beneficiaries. All Medicare beneficiaries have access to an Advantage plan today, and the number of enrolled seniors increased more than 50 percent in the last three years. These plans provide better care for seniors at lower cost to taxpayers than other Medicare programs.

- **Better Savings:** Through competition, Medicare Advantage plans saved taxpayers \$2 billion in 2006 and saved seniors \$86 a month compared to traditional Medicare.
- **Better Care:** Medicare Advantage plans offer preventive benefits and disease management programs to keep seniors healthier. These plan outperform traditional Medicare in providing flu vaccines, breast cancer screenings and diabetes testing.
- **Better Benefit:** Seniors in Advantage plans have access to more benefits than traditional Medicare. Almost 99 percent of seniors have access to an Advantage plan that caps out-of-pocket costs (a benefit not offered in traditional Medicare) and the same number have access to an Advantage plan that provides additional Medicare drug benefit coverage.

Democrat plans to cut the Medicare Advantage program will jeopardize care for millions of seniors. The NAACP strongly opposes cuts to the Advantage program because it provides a “critical link” to health care for low-income and minority seniors.

- “[Rep.] Stark will intensify efforts this week to **lay the groundwork for Medicare cuts** likely to target many sectors in health care. The California Democrat has already clarified that he will try to **trim payments to Medicare Advantage plans ...**” (CQ, 5/14/07)
- In a letter to Congress, the NAACP wrote: “As Congress continues to debate efforts to expand access to high-quality, affordable care, **we urge you not to backtrack on these priorities by cutting funding for the MA program.** This program is vitally important to the health and well-being of racial and ethnic minorities who rely on MA to provide them with the comprehensive, affordable, and coordinated care they need.” (3/14/07)

Vote Justification

HR 1592 – Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act

The hate crimes legislation brought to the floor by the Democrats simply creates an unequal treatment of victims by treating crimes against protected groups differently than non-protected groups. Furthermore, it makes religious organizations vulnerable to prosecution based on their speech. This legislation is an unconstitutional criminalization of thought. While they claim that expanding hate crimes protections is needed – even as hate crimes statistics indicate a decline – the Democrats rejected an attempt to include members of the Armed Forces and seniors within the protected classes.

	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
DEMOCRATIC	212	14		6
REPUBLICAN	25	166		10
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	237	180		16

“Hate-crime laws – 45 states already have them; Congress does not mind being duplicative – mandate enhanced punishments for crimes committed because of thoughts that government especially disapproves of...By conferring special status – enhanced protection – on certain government-favored groups, HR 1592 traduces the principle of equality before the law. (*Washington Post*, 5/13/07)

“Crimes that target someone because of his or her race or sexual orientation are more than an offense against that individual. They are crimes that terrorize whole communities.” (*Washington Post Editorial*, 5/14/07)

Vote Justification

HR 2206 – U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007

HR 2206 included language that was more egregious and damaging to our troops and military strategy than the previous emergency supplemental that was vetoed by the President (and sustained by the Congress). This supplemental only provided \$42.8 billion for military operations and would require Congress to pass additional legislation after the President has made specific certifications to release the remaining \$52.8 billion. It also provides Congress with the opportunity to withdraw the troops within 180 days when the second vote is called for.

It is irresponsible to fund the Global War on Terror only three months at a time, while placing additional constraints on the Commander in Chief and his generals on the ground. This latest attempt by the Democrats to micromanage the war would only destabilize the region and empower radical Islamists that seek to harm the United States and our allies, while leaving our troops without the funds they need to win the war. Furthermore, the Democrats have again lined the bill with all of their non-emergency priorities in order to circumvent the normal legislative process, such as raising the minimum wage; providing funding for LIHEAP, S-CHIP and the Capitol Power Plant; as well as several Democrat earmarks that were not in previous versions of the supplemental.

	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
DEMOCRATIC	219	10		3
REPUBLICAN	2	195		4
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	221	205		7

Vote Justification

HR 2082 – Intelligence Authorization Act

The first intelligence authorization crafted by the Democrat majority clearly highlights the priorities of the Democrats when it comes to the Global War on Terror and the many threats to America and our allies. While Democrats cut human intelligence programs within this legislation, they also call for a national intelligence estimate on global warming and protect an earmark for Representative Murtha that has been labeled a “boondoggle” by the press. In fact, the Democrats even rejected an attempt to allow the Inspector General to audit the program to determine if the program was duplicative. These misplaced priorities are unnecessary and irresponsible, especially during a time of war.

	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NOES</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
DEMOCRATIC	220	6		5
REPUBLICAN	5	191		5
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	225	197		10

“Now House Democrats want to return to the days when the CIA wasted valuable resources on "bugs and bunnies." My objection is not about the validity of global climate change. I am concerned about whether it is an intelligence issue. Does it require analysts to make assessments using classified information that can only be acquired from sensitive human sources and billion-dollar spy satellites? Does it take holding a high-level security clearance and reviewing information in high-security, classified offices to write assessments about the environment?” (*Wall Street Journal* Op-Ed by Rep. Pete Hoekstra)

Vote Justification

S.Con.Res 21 –FY2008 Budget Conference Report

The Democrat budget conference report raises taxes, irresponsibly increases spending and fails to address the looming entitlement crises. Two weeks ago, the Democrats brought a budget to the House floor that would have been the largest tax increase in American history. The conference report is the second largest in American history and opens the door to additional tax increases. Furthermore, the conference report makes only \$750 million in entitlement reforms – out of roughly \$8.5 trillion in mandatory spending over the next five years. This irresponsible tax and spend budget will hurt the American taxpayer and our national priorities.

	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	PRES	<u>NY</u>
DEMOCRATIC	214	13		5
REPUBLICAN		196		5
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	214	209		10

Upcoming Dates to Remember

June

June is...

Children's Awareness Month
National Safety Month

- June 1, 1812: President James Madison declares war on Great Britain
June 2, 1865: American Civil War ends
June 3, 1916: President Woodrow Wilson signs the National Defense Act (expanded the size and scope of the National Guard)
June 4, 1919: Congress passes the 19th Amendment (guaranteeing women the right to vote)
June 4-5, 2007: FEC Conference for trade associations, membership organizations, labor organizations and their PACs in DC
June 5, 2004: Ronald Reagan died
June 6, 1932: Congress enacted first gas tax
June 6, 1942: Japanese defeated at Midway
June 6, 1942: D-Day, invasion of Normandy, France
June 7, 1966: Reagan becomes governor of California
June 12, 1924: George H.W. Bush born in Milton, MA
June 13, 1967: Thurgood Marshall appointed to Supreme Court
June 14, 1777: Congress designates the national flag, Stars and Stripes: "Flag Day"
June 17, 2007: Father's Day
June 19, 2007: GA-10 Special Election (Norwood seat)
June 19, 1856: First Republican national convention ends
June 20, 2007: FEC Monthly Report Due
June 21, 2007: Summer Begins
June 21, 1788: U.S. Constitution ratified
June 22, 2007: 75th Annual Conference of Mayors in Los Angeles
June 22, 1944: FDR signs the GI Bill
June 25, 1950: Korean War begins

July

- July 1, 1971: 26th amendment ratified - changing voting age to 18
July 2, 1776: Congress votes for Independence
July 2, 1964: President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act
July 3, 1775: Washington assumes command of the Continental Army
July 4, 2007: Independence Day
July 6, 1946: George Walker Bush is born
July 12, 1862: President Lincoln signs into law a measure creating Army Medal of Honor
July 13, 1787: Congress enacts the Northwest Ordinance
July 16, 1790: Congress declares Washington, D.C. the nation's capital
July 18, 1947: President Truman signs second Presidential Succession Act
July 20, 1969: Armstrong walks on the moon
July 22, 1862: Lincoln tells his cabinet about Emancipation Proclamation
July 29, 1958: The United States Congress passes legislation and Eisenhower signs formally inaugurating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
July 30, 1956: President Eisenhower signs "In God We Trust" into law



Memorial Day Recess Resource Kit *2007*
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