



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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FACT CHECK: The President, the State of the Union, & Appropriations

WASHINGTON – This week the President gave his annual State of the Union address to the Congress. On Monday he will send Congress his 2009 Budget Request.

Below is a chart comparing what he said in his State of the Union address with what he did last year in his 2008 Budget request.

President’s State of the Union Speech	President’s Record in 2007
“And let us show them that Republicans and Democrats can compete for votes and cooperate for results at the same time.”	Last year the President threatened to veto 10 of the 12 appropriations bills, and refused to negotiate with the Congress on any of them.
“Next week, I will send you a budget that terminates or substantially reduces 151 wasteful or bloated programs totaling more than \$18 billion.”	Programs the President found “wasteful or bloated” last year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare access programs • Support for state and local law enforcement • 44 Education programs including Even Start, and improving classroom technology. • Medical research at NIH • Community Development, Social Services, and Community Service Block Grants that help the country’s most vulnerable.
“These are difficult times for many American families, and by taking these steps, we can help more of them keep their homes.”	Last year the President’s budget would have kicked over 100,000 low-income families out of Section 8 housing with a \$300 million cut and he threatened to veto a bill that would have increased aid by \$400 million. Despite tight budgeting, Congress was able to prevent these Americans from losing their homes.

<p>“We share a common goal: making health care more affordable and accessible for all Americans.”</p>	<p>Last year the President’s budget would have cut funding for healthcare access programs by \$595 million and he vetoed a Labor-Health-Education bill which increased these investments by \$844 million in order to provide one million additional Americans access to healthcare. The final package rejected the President’s cuts, but was \$379 million below the vetoed bill.</p>
<p>“Members of Congress: The No Child Left Behind Act is a bipartisan achievement. It is succeeding. And we owe it to America's children, their parents, and their teachers to strengthen this good law.</p>	<p>The President’s budget has never fully funded No Child Left Behind.</p> <p>Last year the President’s budget would have cut funding for the Department of Education by \$1.2 billion, and he vetoed a Labor-Health-Education bill which increased support for education by \$3.2 billion. The final package rejected the cuts but was still \$1.5 billion below the vetoed bill.</p>
<p>“Trade brings better jobs, better choices, and better prices. Yet for some Americans, trade can mean losing a job, and the Federal Government has a responsibility to help.”</p>	<p>Last year the President’s budget would have cut job training and vocational education programs by \$1.2 billion and he vetoed a Labor-Health-Education bill which rejected those cuts and made slight increases. Ultimately, Congress was able to restore most of the President’s cuts, but not all.</p>
<p>“Our security, our prosperity, and our environment all require reducing our dependence on oil.</p>	<p>Last year the President’s budget would have cut energy efficiency and renewable energy programs by \$238 million and he threatened to veto a bill which would have increased funding for these programs by \$400 million. The final package rejected his cuts, but was \$151 below the original bill.</p>
<p>“The United States is committed to strengthening our energy security and confronting global climate change. And the best way to meet these goals is for America to continue leading the way toward the development of cleaner and more efficient technology.”</p>	<p>Last year, the President’s budget would have cut programs to address climate change, including the development of cleaner and more efficient technology, by nearly \$200 million, and threatened to veto bills that would have increased these accounts by \$1.9 billion. The final package included only modest increases.</p>
<p>“On matters of science and life, we must trust</p>	<p>Last year the President’s budget cut medical</p>

<p>in the innovative spirit of medical researchers and empower them to discover new treatments while respecting moral boundaries.”</p>	<p>research into diseases like Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, cancer and heart disease at the National Institutes of Health by \$480 million, and he vetoed the Labor-Health-Education bill that would have provided a \$900 million increase for this lifesaving research. The final package was \$700 million below the vetoed bill, less than necessary to even keep up with inflation.</p>
<p>“Dedicated men and women in our Government toil day and night to stop the terrorists from carrying out their plans. These good citizens are saving American lives, and everyone in this chamber owes them our thanks. And we owe them something more: We owe them the tools they need to keep our people safe.”</p>	<p>Last year, the President’s budget cut State and Local law enforcement by \$1.4 billion and first responder (the firefighters, police, and emergency medical personnel first at the scene) and port security grants by \$1.1 billion below last year, and he threatened to veto two bills which would have increased these accounts by \$1.4 billion. The final package was \$800 million below the amount Bush threatened to veto.</p>
<p>“We must keep faith with all who have risked life and limb so that we might live in freedom and peace.”</p>	<p>The President strongly objected to the \$3.7 billion Congress added to his request for veterans, repeatedly calling it “excessive” and threatening to veto other appropriations bills if Congress did not cut funding for veterans.</p>

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