



# COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Dave Obey (D-WI), Chairman

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## Emergency Supplemental Funding for Iraq, Afghanistan, Veterans, Workers, and Midwest Disasters

WASHINGTON – Today the House of Representatives will consider the emergency supplemental bill for efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan and pressing domestic needs.

Under consideration are \$183.9 billion in outstanding requests from the President. The proposal before the House stays within this level for appropriated dollars with the exception of \$2.65 billion added for disaster relief in the aftermath of the devastating tornadoes and floods that hit the Midwest.

In addition, to meet our nation's obligation to those who bravely serve and to address the economic insecurity of those here at home, the proposal includes two new initiatives:

- 1.) an expanded GI Bill to provide improved education benefits for veterans and allow them to transfer those benefits to family members; and
- 2.) a 13 week extension of unemployment benefits for those workers who are unable to find a job in today's rough economy.

The proposal will be taken up as 2 amendments.

- **Amendment #1:** \$165.4 billion for the Department of Defense activities as passed by the Senate. Amendment #2 would reduce this funding by \$3.6 billion for a new total of \$161.8 billion.
- **Amendment #2:** Expanded GI Bill, unemployment insurance extension, disaster assistance, and other critical needs.

## SUMMARY

### AMENDMENT #1

**Department of Defense Funding:** The House will consider the \$165.4 billion amendment for the Department of Defense passed by the Senate on 5/22/08. This covers costs through the summer of 2009.

### AMENDMENT #2

**Expanded GI Benefits for Veterans Education:** Expands the education benefits veterans receive under the GI bill to restore the promise of a full, four-year college education and make the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan part of an American economic recovery, just like the veterans of World War II were. Also allows service members to transfer educational benefits to their spouses and dependents.

**Extended Unemployment Compensation:** Extends unemployment benefits for workers who have exhausted their benefits by up to 13 weeks in every state. The number of Americans looking for work has grown by 800,000 over the last year, and the number of American jobs has declined by 260,000 since the beginning of 2008.

**Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 (H.R. 5613):** Places a moratorium on six Medicaid regulations that would cut services to seniors, families, and those with disabilities as well as cut payments to safety net providers. These costs are fully offset.

**Amendment to War Funding:** Reduces Department of Defense funding in Amendment #1 by \$3.6 billion in order to fund other pressing needs.

**Disaster Relief:** \$2.65 billion to ensure that critical resources are available to respond to disasters in the wake of tornadoes and flooding in the Midwest.

#### **Iraq Policy Provisions**

- **Iraq Reconstruction:** Requires that State Department and USAID reconstruction aid for Iraq be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Iraqi Government.
- **No Permanent Bases in Iraq:** Prohibits military construction funds from being used to establish permanent bases in Iraq.

**International Affairs:** \$10.1 billion, \$670 million above the President's request for the State Department, USAID and International Food Assistance (PL480).

- **Food Aid & Disaster Assistance:** \$1.865 billion, \$745 million above the President's request, for international food and disaster assistance. This includes \$500 million above the President's request for PL480 Food Assistance and \$245 million above the President's request for development assistance and disaster assistance programs meant to alleviate world hunger.
- **Refugee Assistance:** \$696 million, \$475 million above the President's request, to address the refugee crisis in Iraq and elsewhere.
- **Merida:** \$465 million, \$85 million below the President's request, for the initiative to provide counter-narcotics and law enforcement assistance in Mexico (\$400 million) and Central America (\$65 million).

**Military Construction and Veterans Hospitals:** \$4.6 billion, \$2.2 billion above the President's request, for military construction and veterans hospitals including increases of \$863 million for BRAC, \$863 million for military hospitals, \$396 million for VA hospitals and polytrauma centers, and over \$210 million for the military child care centers that the President announced in the State of the Union but never funded.

**Louisiana Levees:** \$5.8 billion for much needed efforts to strengthen New Orleans levees in FY 2009, as requested by the President.

**Louisiana Housing Vouchers:** \$73 million, for permanent supportive housing vouchers targeted to the extremely low-income, disabled and elderly left homeless as a result of Hurricane Katrina. These individuals and families are currently living in tent cities and in abandoned buildings in Louisiana as a result of the hurricane.

**Science:** \$400 million, for important investments to improve America's global competitiveness, energy efficiency, and medical research.

**Food and Drug Administration:** \$150 million, for food and medical product safety.

**Bureau of Prisons:** \$178 million urgently needed to meet rising incarceration costs and growing inmate population. The administration would have paid for these costs with cuts to state and local law enforcement.

**Census:** \$210 million to address decennial census cost overruns. The administration requested these funds but would have paid for them by cutting items ranging from scientific research to economic development.

## Emergency Supplemental – Appropriations Breakdown

	Bush Request	House Bill
<i>(numbers in millions)</i>		
<b>Amendment #1</b>		
Department of Defense 2008	\$100,054	\$99,506
Department of Defense 2009	\$66,063	\$65,921
<b>Subtotal Amendment #1</b>	<b>\$166,117</b>	<b>\$165,427*</b>
<b>Amendment #2</b>		
Foreign Aid	\$9,423	\$10,089
<i>State Department/USAID FY08</i>	\$5,074	\$5,164
<i>State Department/USAID FY09</i>	\$3,605	\$3,680
<i>PL480 Food Aid FY08</i>	\$350	\$850
<i>PL480 Food Aid FY09</i>	\$395	\$395
Military Construction & VA Hospitals	\$2,438	\$4,642
Disaster Relief	0	\$2,650
<i>FEMA Disaster Relief Account</i>	0	\$1,297
<i>Army Corps of Engineers</i>	0	\$606
<i>SBA –Disaster Loans</i>	0	\$267
<i>Agriculture Assistance</i>	0	\$480
Louisiana Levees (FY09)	\$5,761	\$5,761
Louisiana Housing Vouchers	0	\$73
Department of Justice	\$186	\$271
Program Shortfalls	0	\$1,048
<i>FDA</i>	0	\$150
<i>Bureau of Prisons</i>	0	\$178
<i>Census Cost Overruns</i>	0	\$210
<i>Increased UI Claims</i>	0	\$110
<i>Science</i>	0	\$400
Veterans Education Benefits – Admin. Costs	0	\$120
Defense Reduction	--	- \$3,578
Death Benefit – Mrs. Lantos	0	\$0.169
<b>Subtotal Amendment #2</b>	<b>\$17,758</b>	<b>\$21,075</b>
<b>TOTAL COST FOR APPROPRIATIONS ITEMS</b>	<b>\$183,876</b>	<b>\$186,502</b>

(\* see reduction in Amendment #2)

## Estimates for GI Benefits and Unemployment Extension

	2 Year Estimate	11 Year Estimate
Expanded GI Benefits	\$796 million	\$62.8 billion
Unemployment Extension	\$12.5 billion	\$8.2 billion

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