

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT



July 2007

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Dear Republican Colleague:

As we head into the Fourth of July holiday, we should take a moment to remember our fighting men and women in harm's way around the world. It is important for the American people to understand the stakes of General Petraeus's security plan and the courage of the young people putting it into action each and every day.

Over the last several weeks, Republicans have made great strides towards earning back the majority. Watching our members work the House floor and drive our reform agenda would lead observers to believe we are already back in the majority!

After spending months delaying critical funding for our troops by fumbling around on an Emergency Supplemental, Democrats tried to rush 11 appropriations bills through the House without transparency and accountability for their secret earmarks. Our unity exposed and eliminated Democrats' slush fund for secret earmarks, forcing a huge victory for American taxpayers.

Additionally, the Democrats promised an energy package to ease the burden of high gas prices on American families before July 4th. Aside from being mired in Democrat infighting, this broken promise of an energy plan will not increase U.S. capacity to create energy. Instead, it will actually make gas more expensive and make us more dependent on foreign energy sources.

No surprise then that nearly three-quarters of the American people disapprove of the job the Democrat-led Congress is doing. No wonder their confidence in Congress is at an all-time low, according to the Gallup Poll. The last time America's confidence in Congress was this low was 1994, right before the Republican majority took over.

I urge you to take advantage of this time with your constituents to ensure that everyone understands our recent victories for the American taxpayer and the major improvements we have made to irresponsible legislation proposed by the Democrats. We have worked tirelessly to stop irresponsible spending and burdensome tax increases and will continue fighting to ensure that Americans' hard-earned tax dollars are being spent in a fair, efficient, and transparent manner.

Thanks for all of your help and efforts over the last several weeks. As always, included in this booklet is information, talking points, and documents to help you communicate to your constituents about our work in the House. Republican victories for the American people have been a team effort, and the American people should know about it.

Sincerely,



Adam Putnam
Chairman, House Republican Conference

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Sample Independence Day Speech

Thank you for having me today.

In the spirit of this being the season of report cards, I figured it would be appropriate for me to update you on how the Congress is doing.

According to an annual Gallup survey, confidence in the Congress has plummeted to an all-time low – 14 percent. In report card parlance, that rating would clearly qualify for “needs improvement.”

We are not at all discontent with those who protect their freedom – nearly 7 in 10 are confident in our brave men and women in uniform – or those who create most of our new jobs – small businesses garnered nearly 60 percent of the country’s confidence.

But when you consider that the President and the Congress combined barely register the confidence of 4 in 10 Americans, it says we have a problem on our hands.

Last year, gas prices were going up, nothing had been done to secure our borders, chaos in Iraq was unfolding on our television screens – so the Democrats said, “Republicans are the problem, throw the bums out,” and a lot of people listened.

Now, here we are, a year later, a President of one party, a Congress of another – gas prices are still preposterously high, our borders are still broken, and the clock is ticking on our mission in Iraq.

So much for a new direction. The leading Democrat in the United States Senate never wastes an opportunity to tell us the war is lost, or to criticize our commanders in the field. That’s no way to defeat an enemy bent on the destruction of our ideals and our way of life, my friends.

The Democrats in the House never miss an opportunity to try and raise your taxes, even if it means trying to re-write the way a bill becomes a law. They’ve gone so far as to treat the federal treasury like a slush fund to draw from at will in order to curry favor with friends, fatcats, and special interests. That’s no way to make government smaller and more responsive to you.

This is an hour of great testing for our country – it’s not the time for leaders who want to try and play politics with our troops and our taxes.

So as we take time to celebrate over 230 years of independence, we should take a moment to recognize that we remain a people still given life by the limited-government roots that were planted in our psyche long ago.

Our independence and all the precious freedoms that come with it were not won on a single summer day in 1776 when a group of wise, ambitious men gathered to sign a document that opened the door to a destiny that has yet to fully manifest itself.

No, American Independence was a movement that gained momentum from the heroic acts of a chosen few who thought liberty was worth standing up for amid a sea of complacent colonialism.

It may have begun in 1735 when John Peter Zenger, the publisher of the *New York Weekly Journal*, was put on trial for attacking the policies of the royal governor, his attorney Andrew Hamilton, said that

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“liberty was the bulwark against lawless power,” and won for his client what we know today as freedom of the press.

OK – I must admit – I can’t say that’s a freedom I celebrate every day -- but that case was indeed a morning star of American liberty.

And then in 1761, there was a Boston lawyer, James Otis – he stood up and filed a lawsuit against the seemingly open-ended British right to search and seizure, the so-called writs of assistance. When he said, “A man is accountable to no person for his doings,” he established the often-underappreciated right to be let alone.

Fast forward to 1765, the British pass a law requiring all legal documents, permits, commercial contracts, newspapers, wills, pamphlets, and playing cards in the American colonies to carry a tax stamp.

Well, at least we know where the Democrats are getting their inspiration from. Now, there’s a lesson that endures: don’t play politics with our taxes.

And when Patrick Henry rose up and said, “If this be treason, make the most of it,” we did.

And yet, even after the Liberty Bell was rung for all to hear, it would take seven years for America to win its independence from the British, another six years after that to form a functional, working government.

Along the way, our Founders would go toe to toe with one another in philosophical, political, even personal combat -- at the end of the day, two were charged with treason, and in one of the most infamous moments of America's infancy, Aaron Burr felled our first Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton with a single bullet in a duel off the coast of New York Harbor.

Let us be reminded then that though this struggle against Islamic extremists began in a single flash point of terror, it will not end that way - we will have to endure, we will have to see it through.

Today, America and Americans are the target of foreign opinions so passionate, so profound, so critical, that often they are taken as conventional wisdom. Anti-Americanism is on the rise all across the world at a time when free peoples face a common foe who seeks to destroy all that we believe in and all that we live for.

No, we don’t have to remake or recast America, but we need to take all this frustration in our citizenry at home and abroad and, as Patrick Henry put it, make the most of it.

We can be inspired by the words of John Steinbeck, who once wrote:

“Out of the whole body of our past, out of our differences, our quarrels, our many interests and directions, something has emerged that is itself unique in the world: America – complicated, paradoxical, bullheaded, shy, cruel, boisterous, unspeakably dear, and very beautiful. “

On this holiday when we light up the sky, we continue to look above and be guided by His wisdom and redeemed by His mercy.

Thank you for your time – God Bless our country, and all the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day to protect it.

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By The Numbers

\$36 Billion	Democrats planned increase in non-security spending compared with 2007, a 9% increase.
32,500	Secret earmark requests the Democrat one-man earmark czar would have judged by himself behind closed-doors, hidden from public accountability and without transparency, until Republican unity forced Democrats to capitulate.
435	Number of Republicans and Democrats who can now challenge earmarks on the House floor because of Republicans' victorious fight to bring transparency and accountability to appropriations bills.
0	Number of earmark requests that the Speaker Pelosi has made public.
16	Number of charges -- ranging from bribery to racketeering to money laundering -- included in the indictment of Democrat Congressman William Jefferson.
\$392.5 Billion	Amount of tax increases Dems levied on American families thus far this year.
\$190 Billion	Cost of another slush fund included in 23 "reserve funds" in the Democrats' budget. Dems promise all this new spending without any means for paying for it.
19 Million	Number of additional households that will be caught by the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) this year.
1.9 Million	Number of jobs generated in just the last year because of Republican-passed pro-growth tax cuts -- continuing the trend that has seen more than 8 million jobs created since August 2003.
\$390.50	Additional money two-car households can expect to spend on gas over the next 6-months because Democrats have broken their promise to "lower gas prices" for American families.
\$6 Billion	Size of the slush fund created by the Democrats' Energy bill for environmental pork projects with scant oversight, allowing taxpayer dollars to be used to "subsidize a plasma TV for Martha Stewart or hybrid police cars in Beverly Hills." (CQ, 6/20/2007).
\$\$\$\$?	Speaker Pelosi is fighting to allow lawmakers' adult children to tag along on Congressional trips for free. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Taxpayer.

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Ideas for the July 4th District Work Period

Please find below some event ideas for the July 4th District Work Period. We encourage you to plan these or similar events in your district during the week. It is also recommended that you meet with your local media to talk about what has been going on in Congress and the Democrats' Broken Promises. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Conference Press Office at (202) 226-9000.

Passport Issue

Local Outreach Forum on Passports: Invite community leaders and church officials to an informational forum regarding changes in current passport and travel regulations. In response to State Department delays in issuing passports, the Administration has made temporary changes in the travel documents required to enter and leave the U.S. It is important that we educate our constituents on this issue because the summer travel plans of many organizations and families will be impacted. For more information, please visit the State Department's Consular Affairs website at <http://travel.state.gov>, the Department of Homeland Security website at http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1182350422171.shtm, or contact the Conference at (202) 225-5107.

July 4th Related Events

Pledge of Allegiance with Boy Scout or Girl Scout Troops: Members can meet the scout troops at the flag pole for the Pledge of Allegiance. In addition to leading the Pledge, give a short speech about the importance of the 4th of July and what the flag means to Americans. Members can present the troops with an American flag that has been flown over the Capitol.

July 4th Parade and Ceremonies: Members should identify what events are happening locally to commemorate Independence Day. A Member could deliver a speech on the topic of the importance of this nation's Independence Day or find other ways to participate locally in these annual events.

Tour Local VA Hospital: If Members haven't already, this is a time to visit or re-visit local VA facilities, especially in the wake of what happened at Walter Reed.

Meeting with Veterans in the District: Invite veterans to attend a local baseball game with the Member and have a pre-game cookout with the veterans and their families. Additionally, work with veterans organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion to organize Independence Day events.

Plan a Veterans Medal Ceremony: This is 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 the medals (purple hearts) they deserved. **[Best Practices: Rep. Ginny Browne-Waite (FL), (202) 225-1002, and Rep. Pete Hoekstra (MI) (202) 225-4401]**

Veterans Resource Fair: Bring together veterans service providers from across the spectrum – nonprofit, government, military and volunteer – and publicize broadly to vets to drive attendance and awareness. Vets can learn about benefits and services available to them from different organizations providing everything from healthcare to home loans, education benefits and mental health, family support services to employment opportunities, and more. **[Best Practice: Rep. Dave Reichert (WA), (202) 225-7761]**

(This document was emailed to District Directors on June 12, 2007)

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Swearing-in Ceremony for New Citizens: Hold patriotic ceremony preceding formal swearing in of new citizens – features patriotic music, military color guard, master of ceremonies from community, keynote speech by Congressman, short speeches by Citizenship and Immigrations Services Bureau Director for the Members’ state and also the federal judge presiding over the swearing-in. After oath of citizenship administered by judge the entire group recites the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time as citizens of the United States. All come with families, friends, co-workers to witness the event. **[Best Practices: Rep. Mike Rogers (MI), (202) 225-4872]**

Energy Ideas

Radio Interview: 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. Energy talking points can be found on www.GOP.gov.

Op-Ed: 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.

Media Event: 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.

Website Improvements: 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/>

Media Events: 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.

Working with Your Local Media

Tour Local Radio and Television Stations: The press secretary should work with the local media stations to set up some time for a tour. This is an opportunity for the Member to get to know the station’s staff and anchors and to get a better feel for how their day-to-day operation runs. Ideally, the press secretary should also have an interview set up to talk about the Member’s activities in the district as well as what has been going on in Washington.

Editorial Board Meetings: Members should be meeting with their daily and weekly editorial boards to help drive our message regarding the Democrats’ broken promises and the new majority’s House of Hypocrisy. This also is an opportunity to talk about what you have been doing in the district. If you can’t set this up for July, you should schedule these for the August District Work Period.

(This document was emailed to District Directors on June 12, 2007)

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Media Breakfast/Coffee: Invite news directors, editors, reporters and other members of the working media to an informal breakfast event where they can ask the Congressman questions on background on whatever issues they deem important. You can also have the Member available for formal interviews following the meeting. For more information on how to plan this type of event in your district, contact Rep. Vern Ehlers' office at (202) 225-3831.

Events in the District

Main Street Walking Tour: Coordinate with the Mayor's office to walk Main Street for a morning or afternoon. You should visit the local shops, restaurants, and catch up with constituents on sidewalks. This can be done in small and mid-size towns, and could be followed up with a open forum in the town hall or community center.

Presenting a Congressional Record Reprint to a Constituent: Members can recognize outstanding achievement of constituents by placing a tribute in the Congressional Record. The Congressional Record can be reproduced on parchment paper, framed, and presented to the constituent in a small ceremony. **[Best Practices: Rep. Mike Rogers (MI), (202) 225-4872]**

Employee Town Hall: Members can schedule a time to tour local businesses to see how their day-to-day operations work. After the tour, a meeting can be set up with the employer and employees to talk about their priorities and field some of their questions. In turn, the Member can talk about what they have been doing in Washington on those specific issues.

(This document was emailed to District Directors on June 12, 2007)

TALKING POINTS: Supporting Our Nation's Service Members and Veterans

OUR PRINCIPLE: America's service members and veterans have served our nation with honor and distinction. They have and continue to defend our freedoms whenever and wherever they have been asked. They deserve the full and unequivocal commitment of the Congress and the benefits they earned.

The House passed the largest increase in veterans funding in the 77-year history of the Veterans Affairs Department. The bill provides more than \$37 billion for veterans programs, a \$4.4 billion increase over last year.

- \$600 million for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) care, traumatic brain injury research and care;
- \$4.1 billion to improve VA facilities, hospitals and clinics;
- \$2.9 billion for mental health care and substance abuse treatment for veterans; and
- \$480 million for prosthetic research to help wounded veterans retain a positive quality of life.
- **Strongly supports active-duty members:** The bill provides \$21.4 billion for facilities needed to house and train military personnel abroad and at home.

Republicans are proud of our strong record of commitment to our nation's veterans. Under Republican leadership, veterans health spending has nearly doubled and the quality of care at VA facilities across the country has been improved.

- **Overall Veterans Spending.** Under GOP Leadership, the VA budget increased \$23.5 billion in 6 years – from \$48 billion in 2001 to approximately \$71.5 billion in 2006, a 49% increase. Republicans have also consistently protected the VA budget from across-the-board 1% deductions in discretionary spending.
- **Veterans' Healthcare Spending.** In our 12 years in the majority, House Republicans wrote budgets that boosted funding for veterans' medical care budget by nearly 90 percent.
- **Veterans' Education.** Under Republican leadership, GI Bill benefits have increased by 65 percent over the last six years, greatly enhancing higher education opportunities for our nation's veterans.
- **Veterans' Mental Health Care.** Responding to the needs of personnel returning from OIF and OEF missions, Congress appropriated nearly \$3 billion for mental health care in 2007, a 6.3 percent increase.
- **First-Rate Care.** The VA leads the health care industry in computerized records, patient safety and standards for care. More than 90 percent of veterans receive primary care within 30 days of their desired date, and more than 90 percent of veterans seeking specialty care receive it within 30 days.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The veterans spending bill increases VA funding by \$2.5 billion above the President's request. The Administration stated on June 13: "If Congress increases VA funding above the President's request and does not offset this increase with spending reductions in other bills, the President will veto any of the other bills that exceed his request until Congress demonstrates a path to reach the President's top line of \$933 billion. But funding for our troops, past and present, should not be held hostage to Congress' attempts to provide irresponsible increases in domestic spending."

TALKING POINTS: Democrats' Energy-Less Energy Plan

OUR PRINCIPLE: American needs a balanced, common sense energy plan that will actually create energy, lower prices for consumers and make our energy supplies more secure. We need a plan that promotes conservation, greater efficiency, renewable fuels, and more exploration of American energy.

The Democrat plan produces no new energy and will raise costs for consumers. The Democrats promised more than a year ago a plan to lower gas prices. But the real Democrat answer to our energy crisis is to increase the cost of energy. The Democrat plan:

- Creates a \$6 billion slush fund for environmental pork projects with scant oversight, allowing taxpayer dollars to be used to “subsidize a plasma TV for Martha Stewart or hybrid police cars in Beverly Hills.” (CQ, 6/20/07)
- Increases costs on consumers by boosting taxes on American domestic energy producers.
- Extends tax incentives for alternative energy programs that Republicans already passed.

Democrat squabbles undermine America’s effort to generate affordable, sustainable and secure energy into the future. Desperate for success and bowing to the extreme left-wing, Speaker Pelosi ruled against common sense, American energy proposals like cleaner liquid coal technology, plans even the chairman and a subcommittee chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee supported.

- Republicans argued “the committee could have produced a comprehensive bipartisan bill” but that Chairmen “Dingell and Boucher gave in to Pelosi...”(CQ, 6/20/07)
- “The new draft also dropped incentives for production of liquid coal, a fuel that supporters say would ease dependence on foreign oil ... Most Republicans generally support the liquid coal measures, as do coal-state Democrats like Boucher ... The dispute over the bill was just the latest chapter in an ongoing feud between Dingell and Pelosi.” (CQ, 6/18/07)
- Democrats “opposed language Dingell and Boucher dropped that would have allowed up to six coal-to-liquid projects to enter into a financial agreement with the Energy Department if they could show that **carbon dioxide emissions would be at or below the levels for a petroleum-based facility.**” (CongressDaily, 6/19/07)

House Republicans stand for a balanced American energy security plan that puts innovative, break-through energy solutions into action in four areas:

- Increasing energy efficiency and conservation to reduce consumption and protect our environment.
- Expanding the use of renewable and alternative American fuels.
- Investing in new and innovative technologies to that will deliver the fuels of the future.
- Deploying green, high-tech technologies to improve traditional, American-made energy production.

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TALKING POINTS: Border Security and Immigration Reform

OUR PRINCIPLE: We stand ready to work with Democrats on immigration reform, but true reform begins with real border control and law enforcement to ensure our nation's security.

In the House, Democrats watered down the border fence Republicans passed last year – a barrier to prevent terrorists, human traffickers, gang members and lawbreakers from sneaking across an insufficiently protected border with Mexico. The Democrat homeland spending bill undercuts this reform by putting bureaucratic red-tape before border security.

- **Democrats purposefully tie up 70 percent of border security funding in red tape.** Of the \$1 billion in the bill for border fencing and technology, \$700 million would be locked in a box until Democrat Appropriations Chairman David Obey approves an expenditure plan. Democrats should not tie up such substantial sums in the bureaucracy.
- **Democrats put wetlands first, border security second.** The Democrat bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to complete a complicated bureaucratic dance before border fencing construction can begin, coordinating with the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service as well as State and local communities.
- **Democrats make homeland security wait.** If the department needs to waive environmental regulations to build a portion of the border barrier, the Democrats will delay construction until after a notice of the waiver has been published in the Federal Register for 15 days.

Porous borders pose a grave threat to our national security and to the economic stability of cities and towns across America. Until we secure the border and effectively enforce the immigration laws on the books, illegal immigration will continue running rampant.

- “According to the [9/11] Commission, up to 15 of the hijackers could have been intercepted or deported through more diligent enforcement of immigration laws.” (Congressional Research Service, 12/21/04)
- “In 2004 the total number of employers fined \$5,000 or more for [employing illegals] was zero – not much of a deterrent.” (The Economist, 4/14/2007)

Blanket amnesty is not the answer. Amnesty rewards illegal behavior and passes on huge public costs to the American people, who are already struggling with taxes, record gas prices, and rising tuition costs.

- “At a cost of \$22,449 per household per year -- well, multiply that by an adult lifespan of 50 years and you have an average lifetime cost to the taxpayer of \$1.1 million per unskilled worker. Increase that population with a wave of unskilled immigrants, and you're talking a lot of money.” (National Review, 4/10/07)

The Senate deal is unaffordable, unworkable and exposes Americans to identity theft. The bill creates a government-run electronic employee verification system, but a new report says this system could lead to widespread identity theft. Americans have little confidence in the federal government's ability to run such a system for 150 million workers **when it cannot process passports for 3 million citizens in time for summer vacations.**

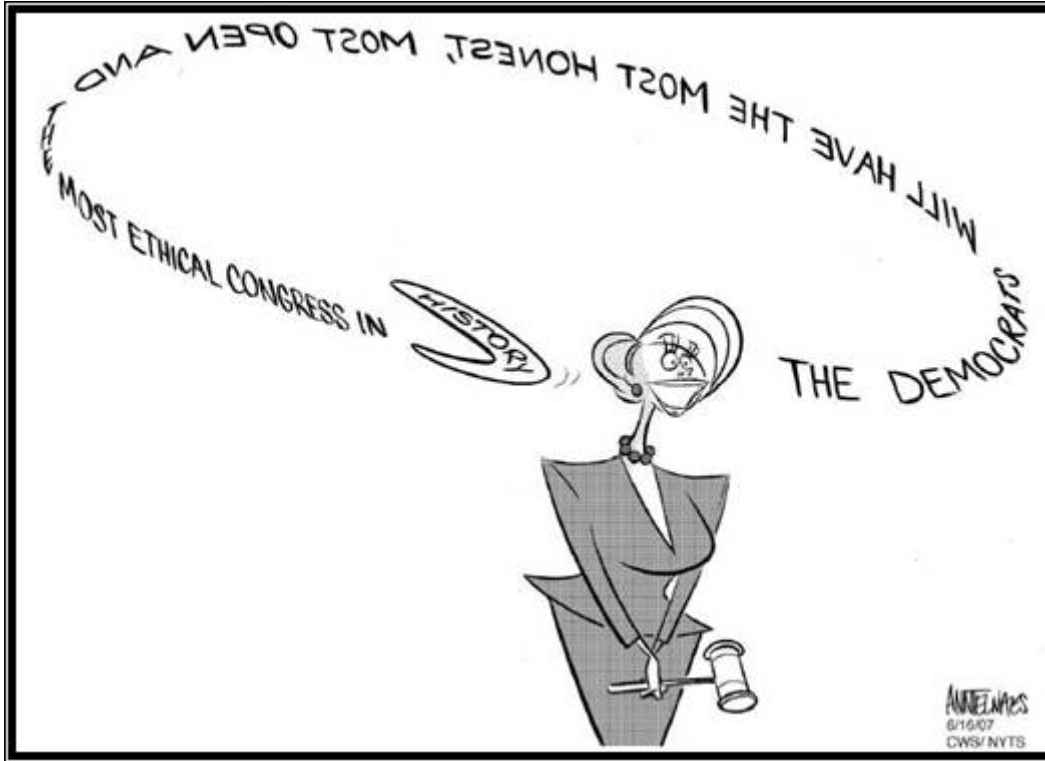
- **Cost to taxpayers: \$2.6 trillion:** “Since the bill grants illegal immigrants access to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, it will prove particularly expensive for taxpayers when former illegal immigrants reach retirement. On average, each amnesty recipient will impose a net cost of over \$300,000 on taxpayers during retirement years. If 12 million illegal immigrants are given amnesty, the net cost to the taxpayers when the adults reach retirement age will be around \$2.6 trillion.” (Robert Rector, Heritage Foundation, NRO, 6/7/07)
- **One-way ticket to identify theft:** “A confidential new study commissioned by the Department of Homeland Security, the system that would do this -- known as Web Basic Pilot -- is vulnerable to identity theft, employer misuse, privacy breaches and data inaccuracies. Heavy enforcement would be required to prevent it from being evaded by illegal workers and employers alike.” (San Francisco Chronicle, 6/25/07)

IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to include this document in the Fourth of July recess resource kit, it was prepared before the House Republican Conference acted on a pending resolution opposing the Senate immigration legislation.

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Promises Made, Promises Broken

Boomerang Effect: Democrats' Broken Promises Backfire



Editorial Art from The New York Times Syndicate

Democrats' Broken Promises

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Promises Made, Promises Broken

Promises Made	Promises Broken
Ethics	
<p><u>Speaker Pelosi</u>: “We pledge to make this the most honest, ethical, and open Congress in history.” (Christian Science Monitor, 11/14/2006)</p>	<p>218 Democrats voted to cover up Rep. John Murtha’s ethics violation and shield him from an official reprimand (Roll Call Vote 402, 5/22/07). Murtha admitted to threatening a Republican member who deigned to question a Murtha earmark that U.S. News and World Report described as a “boondoggle.”</p>
Earmarks	
<p><u>Speaker Pelosi</u>: “We will bring transparency and openness to the budget process and to the use of earmarks, and we will give the American people the leadership they deserve.” (Release, 12/11/2006)</p>	<p>“The new, open, Democratic Party-controlled Congress promised the earmark process would no longer be done in secret.” But earmarks "will be inserted into bills only after the bill has cleared the House floor. In other words, earmarks will still be done in secret, no public debate.” (CNN, 5/25/07)</p>
Fiscal Responsibility – Reserve Funds	
<p><u>Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt (D-SC)</u>: The Democrat budget “shows that Democrats are fiscally responsible, and can budget, and that we are charting a new course for America” (Release, 4/3/07)</p>	<p>“The House and Senate versions of the budget depend on ‘reserve funds’ to pay for additional spending ... There's only one catch: The reserve funds are empty...” (Los Angeles Times, 3/27/07)</p> <p>“Now, congressional Democrats are employing another Washington spending fiction to mask more spending increases in their proposed \$2.9 trillion federal budget for fiscal 2008. It’s called the ‘Reserve Fund...’” (Washington Examiner, 5/18/07)</p>
Energy Independence Day	
<p><u>Speaker Pelosi (D-CA)</u>: “We'll make this Fourth of July energy independence day...” (Press Conference, 5/9/2007)</p>	<p>"The House energy bill has devolved into a heated internecine battle that threatens to spoil Democrats' hopes of passing an overhaul of energy policy by July 4." (Roll Call, 6/13/2007)</p> <p>"Pelosi, who has promised an energy bill before Independence Day, has been at loggerheads with Rep. John Dingell, D-Michigan, chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and a longtime protector of the automakers, over a package of energy proposals being crafted by Dingell's committee." (AP, 6/18/2007)</p>
Gas Prices	
<p>More than a year ago, Speaker Pelosi said: “Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices...” (Release, 4/24/06)</p>	<p>Average Price Regular Unleaded: \$2.99 -- up 69 cents since Democrats took office. (AAA Daily Fuel Gauge Report, 6/22/07)</p>

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Democrat Majority's Failure to Govern

Massive Buyer's Remorse Over Democrat Congress

27%

Just 27% of Americans now approve of the way Congress is doing its job, the poll found, down from 36% in January, when Democrats assumed control of the House and the Senate. And 63% of Americans say that the new Democratic Congress ... [is not] working to bring the fundamental change that party leaders promised after November's midterm election," according to a Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg Poll. ([Los Angeles Times, 6/12/07](#))

64%

64% of Americans disapprove of the Democrat-led Congress.

"The latest [NBC News/Wall Street Journal] poll also found Americans growing more discontented with the Democratic-led Congress, with 64 percent disapproving of Congress' job performance. Only 23 percent approved, down 8 points since April." ([Reuters, 6/14/07](#))

73%

73% of Americans think Congress has done 'not too much' or 'nothing at all.'

"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, 5/5/07](#))

Democrats' Broken Promises

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The Great Democrat Backtrack on Ethics Promises

“Corruption issue besets House Democrats, again”

(Christian Science Monitor, 6/6/07)

Democrats Broken Promises

Ethics Promises	Ethics Reality
<p><u>Speaker Pelosi</u>: “So our first order of business is passing the toughest congressional ethics reform in history...” (1/4/07)</p> <p><u>Majority Leader Hoyer</u>: “The new Democrat Majority is absolutely committed to ensuring the highest integrity.” (Release, 6/05/2007)</p> <p><u>Chairman Rahm Emanuel (D-IL)</u>: “We are changing the way business is done in Washington, and restoring integrity to government.” (House Floor Remarks, 3/14/07)</p> <p><u>Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)</u>: “We laid down a marker and said we want to change the way business is done in Washington.” (New York Times, 5/23/2007)</p>	<p>“Taxpayer watchdog groups and ethics advocates said they were surprised Pelosi would seek more perks for members” by allowing adult children of Members to travel on official trips. (The Hill, 6/14/2007)</p> <p>“Nancy Pelosi promised to change the culture on Capitol Hill within her first 100 hours as speaker ... Now many of Pelosi’s Democrats are balking at serious reforms already passed by the Senate ... (Boston Globe, Editorial, 5/24/07)</p> <p>“Jefferson indicted on graft charges; The Democrat from Louisiana allegedly solicited millions for himself and his family.” (Los Angeles Times, 6/5/07)</p> <p>“After promising unprecedented openness regarding Congress’ pork barrel practices, House Democrats are moving in the opposite direction...” (AP, 6/3/2007)</p> <p>“Democratic earmark reforms lasted 100 days ... The ‘anti-earmark reforms’ are just for show. Mere window dressing.” (Las Vegas Review-Journal, Editorial, 6/5/07)</p> <p>“In their first half-year in office, the newly powerful House Democrats have seemingly lost their reformist zeal ...” (The Missoulian (MT), Editorial, 5/31/07)</p> <p>“Ethics, it appears, aren’t quite as important to some congressional Democrats as they professed before seizing power in Congress.” (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Editorial, 5/24/07)</p> <p>“House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is defending [her] close Democratic ally ... Democrat [Rep. John Murtha] angrily told Rogers he should never seek earmarks of his own because ‘you’re not going to get any, now or forever.’ ... House rules prohibit lawmakers from placing conditions on earmarks or targeted tax benefits that are based on another member’s votes.” (AP, 5/20/07)</p> <p>“More than a year after the House ethics committee voted to launch an investigation into the activities of embattled Rep. William Jefferson (D-La.), the panel appears to have stalled in that effort and it is unclear if it has pursued the matter at all since Democrats took control of the chamber in January... Another indicator is that Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has yet to name for this Congress the Democrats’ 10-member “ethics pool” — the group of Members preselected by their respective party leaders to serve on investigative subcommittees as they are needed.” (Roll Call newspaper 5/24/2007).</p>

INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY®

Voters Showing Buyer's Remorse

INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY EDITORIAL

Posted 6/21/2007

Congress: Like the victim of a slick used car salesman tricked into buying a lemon, Americans wish they could return the Democratic Congress their votes bought: Confidence in Congress has hit an all-time low of 14%.

Gallup just announced its annual survey of public confidence in an array of institutions in American life. Our brave men and women in uniform, naturally, were tops: Confidence in the military is at 69%. Small business, the chief jobs creator in our country, came in second at 59%.

Banks garnered only 41%; the Supreme Court, public schools and the medical system were all in the 30s in the confidence rankings.

President Bush got 25%, down from 33% last year. But TV news, newspapers, the criminal justice system, labor unions, big business, and HMOs all scored lower than our commander in chief.

At rock bottom of the 16 entities polled was the freshly elected, Democratic-controlled Congress. Its dismal 14% confidence rating is the lowest since Gallup began these annual surveys in 1973, and down significantly from the 19% the Republican Congress scored with the public in a "throw the bums out" mood last year.

It really should be no shock:

- **Corruption.** The Democrats' leader in the Senate, Harry Reid, D-Nev., made \$1.1 million in 2001 selling Las Vegas land he didn't own.

In a deal engineered by a former casino lawyer buddy of Reid's linked to bribery and organized crime investigations, Reid skirted Senate ethics rules by failing to report the complex real estate deal.

A 2002 sweetheart deal on 60 acres of Arizona desert involving a Las Vegas lubricants dealer could leave Reid with a cool profit ranging "from \$50,000 to \$290,000," according to the Los Angeles Times. Reid soon introduced legislation making it harder for oil firms to get out of contracts with lubricant dealers.

Then there is Senate Rules Committee Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein of California, who may have bent a few rules by steering over a billion dollars' worth of defense contracts to companies controlled by her husband.

How about Rep. William Jefferson, D-La., just indicted on bribery charges after the FBI found \$90,000 in cash in his freezer? Speaker Nancy Pelosi judged Jefferson unfit to sit on the House Ways and Means panel — then placed him on the Homeland Security Committee instead. Think of the consequences of a terrorist finding someone willing to take a bribe for classified information.

FOURTH OF JULY

RECESS RESOURCE KIT

- **Retreat.** Senate Majority Leader Reid has never missed a chance to declare the Iraq War "lost." Speaker Pelosi has been trying to engineer a pullout for years — even trying in vain to make cut-and-run king John Murtha her House majority leader.

Their latest push for surrender was to write to President Bush that "the escalation has failed to produce the intended results" — even though the new surge strategy under Gen. David Petraeus has not yet been fully implemented.

- **Inability to govern.** For all the lofty, left-leaning ideals Pelosi talked about during last year's campaign, the House of Representatives has reverted to the same old boys' network it was during the decades of its previous control by Democrats.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell of Michigan — first elected to his seat in 1955 — recently let Pelosi know who's the boss, bucking her on fuel efficiency standards.

The Senate, meanwhile, unable to get much of anything past President Bush's veto, has degenerated into little more than a political attack machine. A meaningless "no confidence" resolution on Attorney General Alberto Gonzales more suited to European parliaments took precedence over things Democrats claim to care about, such as energy policy.

Reid and Pelosi have little to be cheery about. That is, unless Gallup adds some group to its survey — trial lawyers? IRS auditors? repo men? — that might rank lower in popularity than Congress.

TALKING POINTS: Democrat Reserve Funds: Phony Budgeting, Guaranteed Tax Hikes

OUR PRINCIPLE: The successful effort to expose the Democrat secret earmark slush fund demonstrated Republicans' commitment to bringing fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency to the \$2.9 trillion federal budget. Americans' hard-earned tax dollars must be spent with accountability and transparency, or not at all.

The Democrat 'reserve fund' is an Enron-style accounting gimmick that leaves a \$190 billion hole in the federal budget. To pay for their out-of-control spending promises, Democrats will use an irresponsible budget gimmick called "reserve funds." Democrats created these fictional 'reserve funds' to say they have funded \$190 billion worth in spending priorities, but these funds are completely empty. There is no money to back these obligations up – until the tax bill comes, that is.

- *Washington Examiner editorial:* "Now, congressional Democrats are employing another **Washington spending fiction** to mask more spending increases in their proposed \$2.9 trillion federal budget for fiscal 2008. It's called the 'Reserve Fund' ... The problem is that like all lies, **Washington's spending fictions are meant to obscure the truth about irresponsible budgets ...**" (Editorial, 5/18/07)
- "It would achieve those goals only by resorting to the same kind of accounting gimmicks Democrats have accused President Bush of employing in his latest budget proposal." (Washington Post, 3/29/07)
- "The House and Senate versions of the budget depend on 'reserve funds' to pay for additional spending for such programs as children's health care and farm aid. **There's only one catch: The reserve funds are empty**, and, if Congress wants to fill them, it will have to do what it has tried to avoid -- make cuts, raise taxes or borrow the money and drive up the deficit." (Los Angeles Times, 3/27/07)

Democrats will raise taxes on the American people to fill their reserve slush funds. Democrats have shown no willingness to take on the generational crisis of entitlement spending, and their spending bills exceed the President's request by more than \$90 billion. Instead, Democrats will put the burden on the American people to fill their empty reserve fund coffers through what promises to be the largest tax increase in American history.

- "The 2008 federal budget blueprints passed by the House on Thursday and the Senate last week promise to boost spending on popular programs without raising the deficit. **That leaves one question unanswered. Will Democrats try to raise your taxes?** ... The budget bills create dozens of 'reserve funds' for spending and tax-cutting priorities, **providing they are paid for -- with tax increases, Republicans predict ...**" (USA Today, 3/30/07)
- "House Democrats are promoting a \$50 billion, five-year expansion of children's health insurance **but have yet to figure out where they'll get money.** Instead, they have created a special 'reserve fund' that health-care advocates in **Congress will be required to fill with an equal amount in tax increases** or spending cuts to get their money..." (Washington Post, 3/29/07)

After trying and failing to create a slush fund for secret earmarks, Democrats cannot be trusted to pass a responsible, transparent budget. Ordinary Americans, government watchdogs and newspaper editorials across the country saw through the Democrats' slush fund, and amid a huge public outcry, Democrats were forced to back down. Now Democrats are trying another budget deception to hide their fiscal irresponsibility. But the new Democrat majority's credibility on fiscal matters is as empty as their so-called reserve funds.

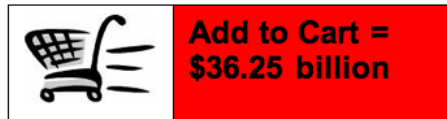
Democrats' ethics cover-ups, rampant broken promises and fiscal irresponsibility has caused America to turn on them after only five months: "The latest poll also found Americans growing more discontented with the Democratic-led Congress, with 64 percent disapproving of Congress' job performance. Only 23 percent approved, down 8 points since April." (NBC News, Wall Street Journal poll; [Reuters, 6/14/07](#))

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT

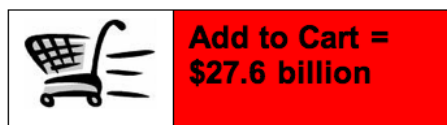
Demos Spending Mantra: Throw Money at the Problem

*“The **Democrats'** budget increases discretionary **spending** by 9 percent, setting aside more money for hundreds of duplicative and ineffective government programs and allowing for the reauthorization of corporate welfare...”*
(National Review Editorial, 6/11/2007)

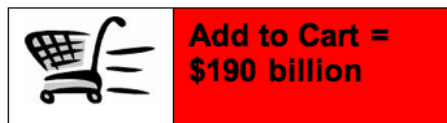
The Democrats homeland funding bill **spends more than \$36 billion**, which is \$2.1 billion more than the President requested and a 13% increase over last year's funding level – nearly 5 times the rate of inflation.



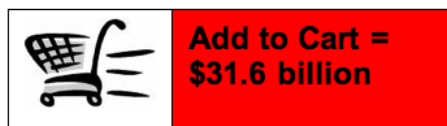
Democrat spendthrifts refused to impose any fiscal restraint on government spending for the Interior-Environment appropriations bill, instead offering a bill **that spends more than \$27.6 billion** – a funding increase of almost \$2 billion over the President's request.



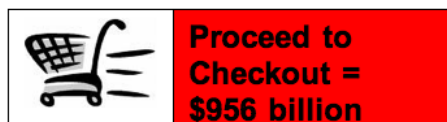
Tucked away in the Democrats' spending plans are 23 so-called reserve funds that will **pave the way for \$190 billion in new spending**, without any plan to pay for it, except tax hikes on the American people.



The Democrats Energy and Water bill **spends \$31.6 billion**, boosting last year's funding level by \$1.3 billion.



In total, Democrat spendthrifts intend to **provide federal government bureaucracy with \$956 billion**, increasing overall spending by \$83 billion over last year.



TALKING POINTS: Republican Victory Pulls Back Curtain on Democrats' Secret Earmark Slush Fund

OUR PRINCIPLE: If an earmark is worthy of one cent of the taxpayers' money, it must be able to withstand public scrutiny. Americans' hard-earned money must never be spent behind closed doors by a one-man Democrat earmark czar. The American people and Republicans will not permit it, and we will continue working to rein in federal spending, protect taxpayers and uphold the highest standards of accountability.

Republicans exposed and eliminated the Democrats' hidden slush fund for secret earmarks – a victory for American taxpayers. Democrats tried to sneak billions in secret earmarks into our annual spending bills. What's more, they prevented the taxpayers and their representatives in Congress from challenging wasteful earmarks in public and debating them on the House floor, instead leaving all the earmarking decisions to just one man – the Democrat Appropriations Committee chairman. **Because House Republicans stood united against their secret slush fund plans, Democrats were forced to capitulate.**

- “Republicans skillfully exploited a political opening provided by Democrats, whose position ran counter to campaign promises and reforms passed both this year and last.” ([Associated Press, 6/14/07](#))
- “Democratic leaders gave in to Republican demands that lawmakers be allowed to challenge individual member-requested projects from the final version of each appropriations bill.” ([Politico, 6/13/07](#))

Our unity forced Democrats to bring Republican principles of accountability and transparency to earmarks. Republicans forced Democrats to restore two critical GOP reforms from last year that the new majority gutted once they assumed power:

- **Full Disclosure of Earmarks:** Democrats were forced to restore last year's Republican reforms that require full disclosure of all earmarks and who requested them – before spending bills are voted on in the House.
- **The Right to Challenge Earmarks on the House Floor:** Democrats were forced to restore last year's Republican reforms that give Members the right to challenge, debate and vote on wasteful earmarks contained in spending bills – before those bills are voted on in the House.

Americans will not forget how Democrats abused the public trust and broke their promises. Government watchdogs, local newspapers and countless ordinary Americans rose up against the Democrat plan to feed at the trough and stuff secret spending into the federal budget.

- **Speaker Pelosi pledged last year** to “bring transparency and openness to the budget process and to the use of earmarks” and asserted that “before 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. And if there's an earmark that can stand the scrutiny, then that transparency will give the opportunity for it to be there.” (Release, 12/11/2006; News Conference, 3/17/06)
- *The Press of Atlantic City (NJ):* Democrats have “done a shameful and shocking about-face ... congressional watchdog groups are justifiably outraged.” ([Editorial, 6/8/07](#))

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT

- *Charleston (SC) Post and Courier*: “Critics justifiably contend that the idea would sharply diminish the needed level of public review.” ([Editorial, 5/26/07](#))
- *Watchdog “Public Citizen”*: the Democrat slush fund “violates the whole spirit of the reform itself. We really did expect that earmark requests were going to be an open book so that all of America could sit there and take a look at who is requesting what earmark.” ([CNN, “The Situation Room,” 6/12/07](#))

Republicans will leverage the victory on earmark transparency in the appropriations process to extend daylight and scrutiny to earmarks on all authorization and tax bills as well.

In the wake of a united Republican front and an ensuing media assault, Democrats were forced to restore the GOP reforms for appropriations bills earlier this month. In restoring Republican reforms to the appropriations process, Democrats conceded that their ill-advised effort to keep the earmark process secret was unsustainable -- both on the floor and in terms of public pressure.

- House Republicans implemented earmark reforms in 2006 that allowed Members to challenge any earmark inserted into any type of bill (appropriations, authorization, or tax). Democrats curtailed this authority after taking the majority in January 2007, breaking their promise to make the earmark process more accountable.
- Democrats were forced by House Republicans to restore the GOP reforms for appropriations bills earlier this month after a public battle that temporarily shut down the appropriations process in the House; however, Democrats to date have refused to restore GOP reforms to authorization and tax bills. Earmarks in authorization and tax bills still cannot be challenged.
- On June 12th, Republicans introduced a resolution that would allow all types of earmarks to be challenged on the House floor. Democratic leaders have refused to say whether the resolution will be scheduled for a vote.

Republicans will continue to fight the Democrats’ irresponsible spending plans. Even without earmarks and secret slush funds, the Democrat appropriations bills spend billions more than the President requested. Meanwhile, Democrats press ahead with what promises to be the largest tax increase in American history. This week’s victory is just the start of a spending season where the Republicans will insist on transparency, insist on full disclosure, and insist on fiscal responsibility on behalf of American taxpayers.

The Democrat majority’s record so far? Ethics cover-ups, secret earmarks and rampant broken promises. No wonder public support for House Democrats is plummeting, with Congress’ job-approval at the lowest level in more than a decade.

- *NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll*: “The latest poll also found Americans growing more discontented with the Democratic-led Congress, with 64 percent disapproving of Congress’ job performance. Only 23 percent approved, down 8 points since April.” ([Reuters, 6/14/07](#))
- *Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg Poll*: “Just 27% of Americans now approve of the way Congress is doing its job, the poll found, down from 36% in January, when Democrats assumed control of the House and the Senate. And 63% of Americans say that the new Democratic Congress is governing in a ‘business as usual’ manner, rather than working to bring the fundamental change that party leaders promised after November’s midterm election.” ([Los Angeles Times, 6/12/07](#))

Boehner Previews Phase II of House GOP Earmark Reform Effort

*Vows House Republicans Will Fight to Ensure Authorization & Tax Earmarks Can
Again Be Challenged on House Floor*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH) today outlined the next phase of the House Republican campaign to force the House Democratic leadership to keep its promise to make the congressional earmark process transparent and accountable to taxpayers. He vowed Republicans will be watching for earmarks tucked by Democrats into authorizing and tax bills and will demand that Democratic leaders allow Members to challenge such earmarks on the House floor.

“The Republican proposal we put into effect last year on disclosure of earmarks and accountability, giving members opportunities to go after those earmarks, dealt with all appropriation bills, all authorization bills and tax bills. And the rules applied to all three,” Boehner said today.

“The earmark reform victory we had last week [in the House] restored that accountability and transparency to only appropriation bills. We’re going to continue to fight for more transparency and accountability with authorization and tax bills,” Boehner said. “And as a tax bill comes or an authorization bill comes that we believe has earmarks in it, you’ll see us pushing hard to make sure that we get that kind of accountability and transparency that the American taxpayers expect and deserve.”

House Republicans implemented earmark reforms in 2006 that allowed Members to challenge any earmark inserted into any type of bill (appropriations, authorization, or tax). Democrats curtailed this authority after taking the majority in January 2007, breaking their promise to make the earmark process more accountable.

Democrats were forced by House Republicans to restore the GOP reforms for appropriations bills earlier this month after a public battle that temporarily shut down the appropriations process in the House. But earmarks in authorization and tax bills still cannot be challenged, and Boehner and other GOP leaders have put the Democratic leadership on notice that it should expect a similar effort by Republicans in the future if the GOP earmark reforms are not fully restored.

Boehner and other House GOP leaders introduced a resolution on June 12th that would, if enacted, allow all types of earmarks to be challenged on the House floor. Democratic leaders have refused to say whether the resolution will be scheduled for a vote.

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT

America's Still Talking About It: *Democrats' Secret Earmarks*



“Democratic earmark reforms lasted 100 days ... The ‘anti-earmark reforms’ are just for show. Mere window dressing.” (Las Vegas Review Journal, Editorial, 6/5/07)

Chicago Tribune

“House GOP outsmarts Democrats on earmarks. This week, House Republicans won big and House Democrats lost face as the majority party allowed itself to be outflanked by the minority on a good-government issue ... Not all earmarks are bad, but all earmarks deserve to be scrutinized and have to be justified, and the process that the Democrats were instituting was the absolute reverse of that...” (Chicago Tribune, “The Swamp,” 6/15/07)



“Democratic vows remain unfulfilled ... Democrats can talk the talk, but they seem to be having difficulty walking the walk ... A House rule instituted by Democrats that prohibits swapping earmarks for votes also seems to have fallen by the wayside.” (Reading (PA) Eagle, 5/31/07)

Arkansas News Bureau

“Pelosi's pledge to ‘drain the swamp’ was short-lived ... Pelosi and company can't keep their word.” (Arkansas News Bureau, Op-Ed, 6/17/07)



“Democrats would do themselves and taxpayers a favor by keeping their promises ... The Democrats called for these reforms. They should practice what they preach.” (Waco (TX) Tribune-Herald, Editorial, 6/19/07)

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT



“A House compromise achieved Thursday night shows that the worthy cause of earmark reform is far from lost ... When the Speaker recently signaled a retreat from her repeated vows to fix that problem, House Republican leaders cried foul.” (Charleston (SC) Post and Courier, Editorial, 6/18/07)



“House Democrats have already forgotten their promise ... The good news is that after pressure from Republicans and spending watchdog groups, Obey has relented...” (Springfield (MO) News-Leader, Editorial, 6/16/07)



“Republicans ... made changes to require that members disclose their sponsorship of pork-barrel funds for their districts ... This week, Democrats ended this openness ... Democrats promised ethical reforms. From working five-day weeks to ending earmarks, they have broken just about every one of those promises.” (Charleston (WV) Gazette, 6/16/07)

Corpus Christi Caller-Times

“The Democrats ... have found a way to make it easier rather than harder to lard the spending bills with earmarks. So what happened to the promise to curb earmark spending and restore fiscal probity in Congress?” (Corpus Christi Caller-Times, Editorial, 6/17/07)

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

“Democrats in the House seem to be blowing their first opportunity to demonstrate they mean business ... If the House Democratic plan does anything to reduce public scrutiny, then it represents a step backward in the battle against pork.” (Chicago Sun-Times, Editorial, 6/8/07)

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT

Pensacola News Journal

“Democrats have not done themselves proud on earmarks ... The Democrats promised much, but so far have delivered less.” (Pensacola (FL) News-Journal, Editorial, 6/5/07)

JournalStar.com

“Those optimistic souls who trusted that ethics would make a dramatic appearance in Washington after the Democrats won control of Congress have had their faith tested ... That [Murtha] dust-up was emblematic of the way that reform has languished in the House.” (Lincoln (NE) Star-Journal, Editorial, 6/4/07)

 **baltimoresun.com**

“Favor czar ... [Obey] and his staff alone will sort the worthy from the unworthy, the election-year booty from the lobbyist payoff ...” (Baltimore Sun, Editorial, 6/11/07)

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

“But, in a slick maneuver ... [Obey] will keep them hidden from public scrutiny until it's too late for spoilsport good-government types to raise a stink.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Editorial, 6/11/07)


pressofAtlanticCity.com
Life, one page at a time

“But they’ve done a shameful and shocking about-face ... Congressional watchdog groups are justifiably outraged” (Press of Atlantic City (NJ), Editorial, 6/8/07)

Wisconsin State Journal

“Obey is now dodging the very reforms he helped to generate ... Obey would enhance his own power but prevent the public and most lawmakers from questioning earmarks until it is too late.” (Wisconsin State Journal, Editorial, 6/7/07)

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT

THE PLAIN DEALER

“Five months after Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her leadership team took control, **that promise remains unfulfilled** ... There's nothing inherently wrong with Congress making minute spending decisions, **but do it openly.**” (Cleveland Plain Dealer, Editorial, 6/10/07)

PRESS-REGISTER

“Democrats work ATM ... But now that they control the ATM, the **Democrats are finding all sorts of excuses to keep the earmark dispenser open for business** ... Democrats are reneging on their vows of fiscal responsibility just a few months after they won their chance to load the ATM.” (Mobile (AL) Press-Register, Editorial, 6/8/07)



“David Obey, D-Wisc., has decreed that earmarks won't be considered in budget bills until they reach conference committee ... Critics justifiably contend that the idea would **sharply diminish the needed level of public review** ...” (Charleston (SC) Post and Courier, Editorial, 5/26/07)



“Pork reform? **Some say Democrats doing the opposite** ... Republicans say Obey is maneuvering to ensure earmarks added to the spending bills can't be challenged.” (Tacoma (WA) News Tribune, Op-Ed, 6/11/07)



“Pet projects pushed out of public eye ... **The result, then, is that the earmark projects will receive almost no public scrutiny and no congressional debate.**” (St. Petersburg Times, Editorial, 6/5/07)

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT

toledoblade.com*

“Backtracking on earmarks. HERE'S the outrage of the week (among many) from Washington: Democrats ... already are perpetuating this odious waste of taxpayer money ... **Democrats promised to end such abuses** ... Now that they're in charge, they should live up to their rhetoric.” (Toledo (OH) Blade, Editorial, 5/26/07)



“In their first half-year in office, the newly powerful House Democrats have seemingly lost their reformist zeal ...” (Missoulian (MT), Editorial, 5/31/07)



“Earmarks will still be done in secret, no public debate. There was supposed to be some kind of change ...” (CNN, 5/25/07)



“After promising unprecedented openness regarding Congress' pork barrel practices, House Democrats are moving in the opposite direction as they draw up spending bills for the upcoming budget year.” (AP, 6/3/07)



“Thousands of pages of earmarks in a bill, time after time after time. And the Democrats promised reform. And, it's not happening.” (CNN, 5/31/07)

The Reviews Roll In:

Republicans Expose The Democrat Earmark Slush Fund

“GOP Victory ...House GOP Promotes Earmark Openness”

“Republicans skillfully exploited a political opening provided by Democrats”

Dems “forced to cut a deal with the GOP after taking a public relations beating”

“GOP Victory ...House GOP Promotes Earmark Openness” ([AP, 6/14/07](#))

“**House Republicans ... successfully forced Democrats** to be more open about Congress' pork barrel ways.” ([AP, 6/14/07](#))

“**Republicans skillfully exploited a political opening provided by Democrats**, whose position ran counter to campaign promises and reforms passed both this year and last.” ([AP, 6/13/07](#))

“Republicans distributed quotes by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., made last year in which she promised an open, transparent process regarding earmarks.” ([AP, 6/13/07](#))

“Virtually none of the debate concerned the underlying bill ... Democrats sought to highlight increases for security at ports, mass transit systems and along U.S. borders, but their efforts were drowned out by the dispute over earmarks.” ([AP, 6/13/07](#))

“House Democratic leaders yesterday bowed to Republican pressure...” ([Washington Times, 6/15/07](#))

“Republicans have successfully sped up the process of reviewing and including earmarks up front” ...**Republicans “won the procedural skirmish”** ([CongressDaily, 6/15/07](#))

House Democrats “forced to cut a deal with the GOP after taking a public relations beating over their handling of earmarks ... Republicans, meanwhile, sent out repeated updates exulting in just how slowly action was moving on the Homeland Security bill — only a few pages had been considered by Wednesday evening before the impasse was broken.” ([Roll Call, 6/14/07](#))

“**Republicans have compiled campaign-style opposition research** that will enable those debating on the floor to fling back at scores of Democrats their own quotes about their belief in a more transparent earmark process...” ([CQ, 6/12/07](#))

“The strategy was led by the conservative Republican Study Committee” ([CQ, 6/14/07](#))

“**Under furious attack** from editorial writers and Republicans...” ([Roll Call, 6/13/07](#))

“Today a much anticipated debate about next year's spending bills **put Democrats on the defensive** about their plans for future earmarks ... The Republicans say this isn't real reform and they called the Democrats on that today.” ([CNN, “Paula Zahn Now,” 6/12/07](#))

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT

“The conflict presented Republicans with a political opening to regain some of the credibility they lost on fiscal responsibility during their time in the majority ... Republicans claim that is too late to crack down on abusive spending by challenging specific projects on the House floor. They also said it contradicts pledges by Democrats to increase openness in Congress generally, on earmarks specifically.” ([Politico, 6/13/07](#))

“When Democrats came to power in this last election, they promised earmark reform. But now Republicans and even nonpartisan advocate groups say they’ve fallen short.” ([CNN, “The Situation Room,” 6/12/07](#))

“**Democrats now are on the defense with Republicans accusing them of breaking their promise to make the earmarks process more transparent**” ([CNN, 6/12/07](#))

“Minority House Republicans are aiming a full arsenal of floor weapons at a Democratic-written Homeland Security appropriations bill to protest the majority’s rules for earmarking and its decision to add member-requested projects at the final stages of the legislative process.” ([CQ, 6/13/07](#))

“**Democratic control of the House has brought Republicans together** ... The battle was joined Tuesday ... The minority party seemed to be only too glad to drag out the bill’s consideration; they were all stuck on the floor late into the night, but the battle lines were clear and partisan. Fighting Democrats seemed to be more energizing to them than fighting over the fine print of Republican-written bills ever was.” ([CQ, 6/12/07](#))

“GOP leaders encouraged rank-and-file members to offer and speak on as many amendments as possible.” ([CQ, 6/12/07](#))

“**In speech after speech, Republicans attacked a plan by House Appropriations Committee Chairman David R. Obey (D-Wis.) to keep hundreds of earmark requests out of the bills until later in the process** ... Republicans and some open-government advocates say such a process would deny lawmakers the right to vote on the often-controversial earmarks and would keep them secret for too long.” ([Washington Post, 6/13/07](#))

“Republicans think a case can be made to voters and are highlighting past statements from Democratic leadership and rank-and-file lawmakers on earmarks and ethics reform. For instance, House Speaker Pelosi's pledge after the November 2006 elections to ‘make this the most honest, ethical, and open Congress in history,’ was referenced Tuesday by Republican lawmakers during debate on the Homeland Security bill.” ([CongressDaily, 6/13/07](#))

“**In a coordinated effort, House Republican leaders and members of the conservative Republican Study Committee are expected to use procedural tactics** to slow down consideration of the four spending bills on the schedule and are willing to ‘shut the place down’ if necessary, according to a conservative GOP aide. RSC Chairman Jeb Hensarling (Texas) and Rep. John Campbell (R-Calif.) are expected to spend all day on the House floor today, and Members and staff were working Monday to coordinate the best strategy.” ([Roll Call, 6/12/07](#))

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT

The Clarion-Ledger

Earmark reform agreement will ensure added 'accountability'

By U.S. Rep Roger F. Wicker
Special to The Clarion-Ledger
June 18, 2007

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the House of Representatives scored a victory for good government last week when the Democratic majority was forced to abandon a plan that concealed member-requested appropriations projects from public scrutiny and shielded them from congressional action until too late in the legislative process.

The new agreement will ensure more transparency and accountability with these earmarked projects by identifying them before the House considers the legislation.

It is also consistent with reforms enacted by the Republican majority in the last Congress, which required identification of every earmark and the member who offered it. That process allowed any Member to challenge individual projects on the House floor, engage in a full debate, and request votes on each one in question.

Democrats promised to continue that policy of full disclosure in the earmark process in 2007. New House Speaker Nancy Pelosi listed it as a priority and said they would bring transparency and openness to the use of earmarks. But soon into the appropriations process, the Democrats reversed course in favor of a procedure that would have made it almost impossible for the American people to see how their tax dollars are spent, effectively trading earmark transparency for earmark secrecy.

Republicans strongly objected to the plan, under which these projects would not have been included in appropriations bills until after floor debate and passage in the House.

The special projects were to be added in a closed-door session at the end of the legislative process with input from only a handful of Members. Such a policy, coming so late, would make it nearly impossible for critics of questionable projects to challenge them.

The national press was critical of the policy. CNN reported, "The Democrats promised reform, and it's not happening. "The Associated Press said that after promising openness, House Democrats were "moving in the opposite direction ... sidestepping rules approved their first day in power in January to clearly identify earmarks."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch said it was a "slick maneuver that would keep earmarks hidden from public scrutiny until it's too late for spoilsport good-government types to raise a stink."

Under terms of the new arrangement, Democrats will include each project and the name of the member who sponsored it in the remaining 10 appropriations bills to come before the House.

It means we will be shining a bright spotlight on every request for taxpayer dollars and considering the merits of each project in an open and fair process before it is approved.

While we made great progress on earmark reform, I have additional concerns about the higher level of funding proposed by the new Democratic majority. The appropriations bills heading to the House floor include increases to current services and new programs that exceed the budget submitted by President Bush by more than \$23 billion. He will likely use the veto pen to hold the line on spending.

I have pledged to help the president sustain those vetoes to produce a more responsible budget.

U.S. Rep. Roger F. Wicker represents the 1st Congressional District in Mississippi.

Democrats' Fiscal Irresponsibility

TALKING POINTS: Iraq War De-Authorization Vote

OUR PRINCIPLE: Just as we opposed the misguided Democrat effort to Slow Bleed the troops through a systematic, slow-drip funding cut strategy, Republicans will oppose Democrat legislation to de-authorize use of force in Iraq. It is an attempt by Democrat leaders to pacify their left-wing base in lieu of the Party's failure to offer an up-or-down vote that categorically denies funds for the troops and ends the war. **De-authorization does nothing to end the war; it only demoralizes the troops and gives aid and comfort to the enemy by signaling that we are surrendering.**

American troops fighting to defeat al Qaeda in Iraq deserve more than their funding – they deserve the confidence of the Congress, the prayers of the American people, and the opportunity to succeed.

A vote to de-authorize undermines Gen. Petraeus and the troops. After having voted unanimously to confirm Gen. Petraeus, Democrats are now contemplating a vote to de-authorize his mission without giving it a chance to succeed.

A de-authorization vote would Slow Bleed troop morale, but it would not end the war. Having failed not once, but twice, to Slow Bleed American troops in combat through funding cuts, Democrats are now contemplating a vote that would Slow Bleed troop morale by sending them an unmistakable message that Congress no longer supports their mission.

- **Damaging to U.S. troop morale, and the morale of U.S. allies.** A de-authorization vote would encourage U.S. allies serving alongside U.S. troops in Iraq to abandon their efforts – this at precisely the time that many Democrats are making the case that the international community should shoulder more of the burden in Iraq.
- **A declaration of defeat and desire to withdraw.** De-authorization would be interpreted by the world – our allies and enemies alike – to be a declaration that we have been defeated in Iraq and that our troop presence there is merely perfunctory.

Democrats are playing political games with the troops in order to appease their left-wing base. The movement among Democrat leaders to vote to de-authorize the war is a cynical attempt to appease the far left, which is waking up to the realization shared by an overwhelming number of Americans that the New Democrat Majority lacks both the will and the ability to keep its promises.

- **De-authorization has no practical impact without a commensurate cutoff in funds.** A de-authorization vote would represent the strongest message to date of this Congress' intent to undermine troop morale, yet it fails to take any concrete steps to end the war by de-funding.
- **Serves as an empty, rhetorical gesture to the left-wing political base.** After failing to bring to a vote an up-or-down bill to de-fund the war, and after repeatedly being defeated in their efforts to Slow Bleed the troops, Democrat leaders are advancing a de-authorization vote as a means to quell the political rebellion brewing among its political base.

TALKING POINTS: Supporting Our Troops in Harm's Way

OUR PRINCIPLE: Our troops fighting the Global War on Terror deserve more than their funding without strings and pork: they deserve the confidence of their country and the opportunity to succeed in their difficult mission.

Our nation faces a serious and ongoing threat from terrorists. Precipitous withdrawal from Iraq before our troops complete their mission will not make the threat of terrorism miraculously disappear.

- Al Qaeda is coordinating a global war with the United States and our allies, and is fueling the violence in Iraq. We have a clear enemy in Iraq: [al Qaeda](#).
- We have a clear purpose: victory in Iraq is essential if we are going to defeat terrorists that have threatened our way of life. If we don't fight al Qaeda there, where will we fight? In Lebanon? Jordan? Israel?

General Petraeus' new strategy to secure Iraq has only now been completely implemented, with the full complement of troops arriving just recently. Troops are launching major operations against Al Qaeda forces in and around Baghdad, and the fighting is difficult and slow-going.

- **Democrat leaders have already judged the security plan a failure,** despite the fact it is only now beginning at full strength. In another slap at our troops putting that plan in to action, Democrats announced they will try again in July to choke off their funding in the defense spending bill and through other legislation.
- **Gen. Petraeus said the security plan is “enabling us now to launch operations** into sanctuaries, areas in which we have had very little coalition force presence other than raids in recent years. These are areas where Al Qaeda has established car bomb factories and other bases from which they have issued forth and then moved into Baghdad to attack targets, often indiscriminately ... [These] are areas into which we are now going in much greater force.” (Fox News Channel, 6/17/07)
- **“Tentative Signs of Progress.”** “[D]ata suggest that sectarian violence in Baghdad has declined. Other tentative signs of progress have included a rise in Iraqi army enlistments and some quality-of-life improvements such as fewer electricity blackouts in the capital.” (USA Today, 6/14/07)

Surrender and failure in securing Iraq hold catastrophic consequences for the United States, for the Iraqi people and the world. An outbreak of regional war would require the U.S. military to return to protect vital national interests.

- **Killing Fields and Genocide:** An American retreat would lead to genocide and ethnic cleansing on a Cambodian scale, with Shi'a and Sunni death squads the new Khmer Rouge, creating 21st century “killing fields” on the ground we once patrolled.
- **A Region Consumed by War:** The ensuing chaos could spur a regional war between Shi'a and Sunni factions involving Iran and Saudi Arabia. Turkey may be compelled to act against Kurdistan, leading to a lengthy guerrilla war between the two.
- **A New Terrorist Safe Haven:** Amid it all, al Qaeda would cement its hold on western Iraq and use it as a base to launch terrorist attacks against the United States and our allies in the region – as the National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq confirmed.

Our men and women fighting al Qaeda are putting their lives on the line to defend our freedom and make America safe. They made enormous sacrifices even before setting foot on the battlefield, leaving behind their loved ones, and for the Guard and reserves, their livelihoods. Our troops have volunteered to defend our country wherever and whenever they are called, and they are executing their mission with professionalism and unparalleled courage. Those troops fighting to defeat al Qaeda in Iraq deserve more than their funding – they deserve the confidence of the Congress, the prayers of the American people, and the opportunity to succeed.

BACKGROUND: Americans Against Escalation in Iraq ***Don't Be Fooled: Partisan Anti-War Group IS the Democrat Party***

Americans Against Escalation in Iraq is an umbrella organization of partisan groups whose mission is to support Democratic political goals and undermine Republicans – no matter the cost to the country or our fighting men and women in harm's way.

Roll Call newspaper recently announced (6/18/07) the group will launch “major, multi-million dollar” campaign against Republicans to capitalize politically on the mission in Iraq and our troops' sacrifices there. Americans Against Escalation is made up of a number of partisan groups including the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), MoveOn.org and VoteVets.org.

If this group is active in your state or district, your reporters should not be fooled. This group does not speak for the grassroots in your community. **It speaks for the Democrat Party. It works for the Democrat party. It IS the Democrat Party.**

Left-Wing Groups “Bought and Own” the Democrat Party.

- **MoveOn.org** boasted about the Democrat party: It's our party: we bought it, we own it and we're going to take it back.” (St. Petersburg Times, 2/18/05)
- In 2004, the Kerry campaign was in “almost constant contact with **MoveOn.org** staffers, including advanced viewing and reviews of **MoveOn.org** television commercials, online ads and web content. (American Spectator, 8/23/04)
- **VoteVets.org** “talked strategy behind closed doors with the Democrats who run the House and then held a media event with those leaders, including Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.), who praised them for speaking out.” (Washington Post, 2/8/07)
- “Every morning, representatives from a cluster of antiwar groups gather for a conference call with Democratic leadership staff members in the House and Senate ... one of the coalition's strengths is its diversity, bringing together groups like **MoveOn.org and organized labor** on one end and former Iraq veterans in the group **Votevets.org** on the other.” (New York Times, 5/6/07)

Spent Tens of Millions of Campaign Ads Attacking Republicans, Helping Democrats

- **VoteVets.org** “has drawn controversy in the past for election-season ads that attacked Republicans and has collaborated with the liberal group **MoveOn.Org**.” (Las Vegas Review-Journal, 4/27/07)
- **MoveOn.org** has given more than \$1.1 million to individual federal Democratic candidates since the 2002 election cycle – and zero dollars to Republicans. (Opensecrets.org, accessed 6/22/07)
- “**The nation's largest union [SEIU]** will shell out \$65 million to campaign against the reelection of President George Bush ... The union's anti-Bush war chest is a huge sum.” (BusinessWeek, 7/12/04)
- Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) at a **MoveOn** rally: “We are depending on you.” (Washington, D.C., 3/16/05)

Roll Call

Groups Hit GOPers on Hot Topics

June 18, 2007

Two powerful liberal groups last week set their sights on more than 40 Republican Members of Congress, launching a series of activities designed to apply political pressure on some of the most burning issues of the day.

Americans Against Escalation in Iraq announced that it was kicking off a project called “Iraq Summer.” Modeled on the “Freedom Summer” of the 1960s civil rights movement, which dispatched organizers to dozens of communities in the South to work for integration, the Iraq program will send almost 100 organizers to the home states and districts of some Republican Senators and House Members who have opposed setting a timeline to end the Iraq War.

Organizers will spend 10 weeks in 40 Congressional districts across 15 states, working with local veterans and advocacy groups to pressure the targeted lawmakers to reject President Bush’s Iraq policy. They will stage a variety of events, including letter-writing campaigns and local rallies.

“Opposition to the war in Iraq has reached a boiling point and this summer Republican members of Congress will be feeling the heat back home,” Moira Mack, a spokeswoman for Americans Against Escalation in Iraq, said in a statement. “The President’s remaining supporters in Congress will be forced to face the political consequences in their districts this summer.”

The targeted Republicans are Illinois Reps. Mark Kirk, Timothy Johnson and Ray LaHood; Maine Sens. Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe; Michigan Reps. Vernon Ehlers, Fred Upton, Tim Walberg, Mike Rogers, Candice Miller and Thaddeus McCotter; Minnesota Sen. Norm Coleman and Reps. Jim Ramstad and Michele Bachmann; New Hampshire Sen. John Sununu; New Jersey Reps. Chris Smith and Mike Ferguson; New York Reps. Jim Walsh and Randy Kuhl; Ohio Sen. George Voinovich and Reps. Steven LaTourette and Deborah Pryce; Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter and Reps. Phil English, Jim Gerlach, Charlie Dent, Tim Murphy and Todd Platts; Virginia Sen. John Warner and Reps. Thelma Drake, Frank Wolf and Tom Davis; Arizona Rep. Rick Renzi; Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley and Rep. Tom Latham; New Mexico Sen. Pete Domenici and Rep. Heather Wilson; Nevada Reps. Dean Heller and Jon Porter; and Delaware Rep. Mike Castle.

Many face potentially competitive challenges in 2008.

Meanwhile, Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund, whose early attack ads in the 2006 cycle helped soften then-House Resources Chairman Richard Pombo (R-Calif.) for defeat, began airing radio ads Thursday in the districts of Heller, Renzi and GOP Reps. Ken Calvert (Calif.), John Doolittle (Calif.) and Steve Pearce (N.M.), criticizing their stance on global warming. The ads were accompanied by the launch of a new Web site, www.headsinthesand.org, set up to pressure the lawmakers.

Rodger Schlickeisen, president of the environmental group, said in an interview that the ads would air on drive-time radio throughout the five Members’ districts at least through the end of this week.

Although some of the Members could be vulnerable in 2008, Schlickeisen said their political standing was only part of the consideration when it came to placing the ads.

“We started out with the most extreme [on global warming] — the easiest to target,” he said.

Schlickeisen would not say what the organization is paying for the radio ads, but he said others would follow targeting the initial five — with other Members soon to be in the group’s scope.

“I couldn’t even tell you what our full budget is because we haven’t figured it out,” he said.

TALKING POINTS: President's Veto of Embryonic Stem Cell Research

OUR PRINCIPLE: House Republicans support ethical scientific research that does not depend on the destruction of human life.

Stem cell science has far surpassed the ethical debate Democrats are forcing upon the House. Just this month, researchers announced they achieved the equivalent of “turning back time” by producing embryonic stem cells from skin cells without destroying a human embryo. Scientists believe these cells hold tremendous promise that can lead to the discovery of treatments and cures for illnesses like diabetes, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. Furthermore, research into pluripotent stem cells like adult, umbilical chord blood and amniotic fluid stem cells also continue to show tremendous medical promise.

- **Pluripotent stem cell breakthroughs:** “In a big step toward a long-sought goal, three teams of scientists say they’ve produced the equivalent of embryonic stem cells at least in mice, without taking the controversial step of destroying embryos.” (AP, 6/6/07)
 - “[T]he biological equivalent of turning back time: They returned old, mature cells – such as skin – to their primordial, embryonic state. Further experiments showed that the derived cells had the same properties as true embryonic stem cells, such as the ability to turn into muscle, heart, nerve and other tissue types ... Crucially, three of the experiments didn't use eggs and didn't require the destruction of embryos.” (Wall Street Journal, 6/6/07)
 - “Researchers at Wake Forest University and Harvard University reported Sunday that the stem cells they drew from amniotic fluid donated by pregnant women hold much the same promise as embryonic stem cells. They reported they were able to extract the stem cells from the fluid, which cushions babies in the womb, without harm to mother or fetus and turn their discovery into several different tissue cell types, including brain, liver and bone.” (AP, 1/8/07)

The President announced a redoubled effort by the Administration to capitalize on recent scientific advances and pursue groundbreaking stem cell research that does not depend on the destruction of human life.

- **Funding for New Kinds of Pluripotent Stem Cell Research:** The Administration will expand the federal stem cell registry to allow other kinds of pluripotent stem cell research to become “eligible for federal financing if they have the same properties as embryonic stem cells” – such as the breakthrough this month to use mature cells to produce pluripotent embryonic stem cells. (New York Times, 6/20/07)
 - **“Pluripotent Stem Cells”:** “The cells are considered valuable because they are ‘pluripotent,’ meaning they can develop into any type of tissue in the body, and might therefore yield treatments and cures.” (New York Times, 6/20/07) “The National Institutes of Health says these stem cells offer the prospect of having a renewable source of replacement cells and tissues to treat Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, spinal cord injury, stroke, burns, heart disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis and other conditions.” (AP, 6/20/07)

FOURTH OF JULY

RECESS RESOURCE KIT

- **Help for Researchers:** The Department of Health and Human Services will develop a plan to instruct “how scientists and researchers who want to get new stem cell lines approved for the registry might do so.” (New York Times, 6/20/07)

National Institutes of Health total funding for stem cell research is 24 percent higher today than in fiscal year 2003. NIH funding for human embryonic stem cell research is 85 percent higher this year than in FY2003. (Congressional Research Service, 4/18/07)

Frozen embryos are unborn human beings that are not automatically destined for destruction. They can be and have been matched with adoptive families. The resulting births are called “snowflake” children because each is fragile and unique. One adoption agency has matched hundreds of parents and donor embryos, resulting in the birth of 99 children since 1997. (Nightlight Christian Adoptions)

The President’s veto was no surprise to Democrats who chose to pass veto-bait instead of legislation that would responsibly advance stem cell research. The President vetoed an embryonic stem cell bill last year, and Democrat leaders lack sufficient votes to override his veto this year.

- The Administration vowed a veto by saying the bill “would use Federal taxpayer dollars to support and encourage the destruction of human life for research. The bill would compel all American taxpayers to pay for research that relies on the intentional destruction of human embryos for the derivation of stem cells, overturning the President’s policy that funds research without promoting such ongoing destruction. If S. 5 were presented to the President, he would veto the bill.” (Statement of Administration Policy, 6/6/07)
- Embryonic stem cell research is proceeding every day, regardless of the debate in Congress or the President’s veto. Embryonic stem cell research is and continues to be legal.

Democrats are now planning the outrageous step of attaching controversial stem cell legislation to a must-pass annual federal spending bill.

- “Senate Democrats have decided to try to force through a narrower expansion of the controversial research on human embryos by tacking it onto an appropriations bill ... Rather than allowing federal funding for all kinds of embryonic stem-cell research, as the soon-to-be vetoed bill would do, Harkin and Specter simply would expand the number of stem-cell lines that researchers could use. While Bush issued an executive order his first year in office limiting federal funding to research only on lines that were derived prior to Aug. 9, 2001, the Harkin-Specter language would allow funding for lines derived before June 15, 2007.” (Roll Call, 6/20/07)

Courtesy of Congressman Mike Castle

SUMMARY OF S. 5 – The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act

This bill passed that House and has since been vetoed by the President. However, the purpose of S. 5, the “Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007,” is to expand the number of stem cell lines that are eligible for federally funded research. Similar to legislation passed in the House earlier this year (H.R. 3) with overwhelming bipartisan support, the goal of S. 5 is to accelerate scientific progress toward cures and treatments for a wide range of diseases and debilitating health conditions.

Under the current federal policy on human embryonic stem cell research, only those stem cell lines derived before August 9, 2001, are eligible for federally funded research. This bill lifts that restriction. Stem cell lines shall be eligible for federally funded research regardless of the date on which they were derived. The bill also institutes strong ethical requirements on stem cell lines that are eligible for federally funded research.

BILL SUMMARY

The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) shall conduct and support research on stem cells that have been derived from embryos if the following requirements are met:

1. Embryos used to derive stem cells were originally created for fertility treatment purposes and are in excess of clinical need;
2. The individuals seeking fertility treatments for whom the embryos were created have determined that the embryos will not be implanted in a woman and will otherwise be discarded; and
3. The individuals for whom the embryos were created have provided written consent for embryo donation and without receiving financial inducement.

The Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), shall issue guidelines 60 days after enactment. These guidelines shall ensure that federally funded researchers adhere to ethical considerations. The Secretary shall annually report to Congress about NIH funded stem cell research. In addition to the original language from H.R. 3, this bill would direct the Secretary of HHS to conduct and support basic and applied research to develop techniques for the isolation, derivation, production, or testing of stem cells that are capable of producing all or almost all of the cell types of the body but are not derived from a human embryo.

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 Colombia 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 U.S. companies.

Vote Justification

HR 2560 – Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2007

Despite the title, HR 2560 does not prohibit human cloning. It allows the cloning of human embryos for research. As a result of the way in which this legislation defines cloning, the action prohibited is only the implanting of human embryos in the uterus – not the actual cloning of embryos. This essentially allows for the cloning of embryos, but requires them to be destroyed or frozen. This misleading legislation does nothing to prohibit cloning.

	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
DEMOCRATIC	190	31		10
REPUBLICAN	14	182		5
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	204	213		15

Vote Justification

HR 2642 – Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations for FY2008

America's service members and veterans have served our nation with honor and distinction. They deserve the full and unequivocal commitment of the Congress and the benefits they earned. This legislation increases discretionary spending for military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs by over 30%, including a \$4.4 billion increase for veterans over the Fiscal Year 2007 levels. This significant increase – the largest since the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs – is an important investment in those who serve our nation.

Republicans have a strong and consistent record on veterans funding. Over the last five years, veterans funding increased from \$48 billion to approximately \$71.5 billion (a total of 49%).

Since this legislation increases spending above the President's request, it is important for Democrats to offset the increases in other bills that include irresponsible and unjustified increases.

	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
DEMOCRATIC	224			7
REPUBLICAN	185	2		14
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	409	2		21

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT

Vote Justification

HR 2638 – Department of Homeland Security Appropriations for FY2008

Protecting our homeland from terrorist attacks and keeping our borders secure is a top priority for each and every American. Taxpayers demand fiscal responsibility, however, and Republicans are committed to eliminating waste, fraud and abuse to make government programs efficient and effective.

Democrat spendthrifts continue their fiscally irresponsible ways with the homeland funding bill. HR 2638 spends more than \$36 billion, which is \$2.1 billion more than the President requested. And it is a 13 percent increase over last year's funding level – nearly 5 times the rate of inflation. It also doubles funding for a homeland security grant program – expanding the program well beyond its original purpose.

Additionally, the bill puts bureaucratic red-tape before border security. Of the \$1 billion in the bill for border fencing and technology, \$700 million would be locked in a box until Democrat Appropriations Chairman David Obey approves an expenditure plan developed by the Department of Homeland Security. It also requires the Department of Homeland Security to complete a complicated bureaucratic dance before border fencing construction can begin, coordinating with the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, as well as state and local communities.

	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
DEMOCRATIC	223	2		6
REPUBLICAN	45	148		8
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	268	150		14

FOURTH OF JULY RECESS RESOURCE KIT

Vote Justification

HR 2764 – State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill for FY2008

HR 2764 includes a 9.4% increase in non-emergency discretionary spending over Fiscal Year 2007. This legislation represents yet another irresponsible spending increase by the Democrats. In fact, the Democrats refused to support an amendment that would reduce funding by 0.5% -- despite the significant amounts of funding for the United Nations and other international organizations in need of significant reform. Furthermore, it includes language that forces taxpayers to support international groups that provide abortions. For years, a bipartisan majority of the House supported a law to prohibit public funds from going to overseas organizations that provide or promote abortion. Under the Democrat bill, taxpayers will now be required to purchase contraceptives that will be sent to groups overseas that promote abortion as a means of family planning.

	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
DEMOCRATIC	210	14		7
REPUBLICAN	31	164		6
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	241	178		13

Vote Justification

HR 2771 –Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill for FY2008

The Legislative Branch Appropriations bill included \$3.1 billion in funding, which is a 6.7% increase over Fiscal Year 2007. This irresponsible increase puts the priorities of Congressional Democrats and their office space above the priorities of the American people. For example, this legislation includes \$16 million for new office space, which is part of an overall project cost of \$56 million, at a minimum. If there is one bill that Democrats should be able to restrain their spending, it should be the bill that funds Congress.

	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	PRES	<u>NV</u>
DEMOCRATIC	202	11		18
REPUBLICAN	14	165		22
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	216	176		40

FOURTH OF JULY

RECESS RESOURCE KIT

Upcoming Dates To Remember

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:	President 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 15, 2007:	FEC Quarterly Update Due
July 16, 1790:	Congress declares Washington, D.C. the nation's capital
July 17, 2007:	GA-10 runoff election
July 18, 1947:	President Truman signs second Presidential Succession Act
July 20, 1969:	Armstrong walks on the moon
July 20, 1969:	FEC Monthly Report Due
July 22, 1862:	President 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
July 31, 1956:	FEC Mid-year Report Due

August

August 2, 1776:	Delegates sign Declaration of Independence
August 3-5, 2007:	The National Federation of Republican Assemblies holds its Grassroots Presidential Endorsement Convention in St. Louis, MO
August 5, 2007:	ABC News hosts a Republican presidential forum in Des Moines, IA
August 6, 1965:	President Johnson signs Voting Rights Act
August 10, 1949:	President Truman signs National Security Bill which establishes the Dept. of Defense
August 10, 1981:	Adam Walsh is found murdered, prompting Congress to pass the Missing Children's Act, giving the FBI greater authority to track the disappearance of children.
August 11, 2007:	Iowa GOP Presidential Straw Poll
August 12, 2007:	International Youth Day
August 14, 1935:	Social Security Act is passed
August 18, 1920:	19 th Amendment Ratified – giving women the right to vote
August 20, 2007:	FEC Monthly Report Due
August 21, 1959:	Hawaii becomes 50th state
August 23-26, 2007:	Indiana Republicans host GOP presidential hopefuls at Midwest Republican Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, IN
August 26, 1920:	19th Amendment adopted into the U.S. Constitution by proclamation of Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby
August 27, 1894:	First graduated income tax is passed
August 27, 1979:	IRS establishes new position by devising the position of Taxpayer Ombudsman.
August 28, 1963:	Martin Luther King, Jr. speaks to March on Washington
August 29, 2005:	Hurricane Katrina slams into Gulf Coast
August 30, 1983:	First African American in space: U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Guion Bluford
August 31, 2007:	Texas Republican Party holds its 2008 straw poll in Fort Worth, TX

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