

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

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SPRING 2008

DISTRICT WORK PERIOD



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HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

SPRING RECESS Resource Kit

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Dear Colleague

Congress heads home for a two-week recess today but leaves behind a record of national security neglect, broken ethics rules and the largest tax increase in American history. [This week, like too many others thus far in the 110th Congress, represents a missed, bipartisan opportunity to fix a broken Washington.](#)

With a slowing economy, rising costs of living and the specter of \$4 gas putting a squeeze on American families, Democrats in charge of Congress have proposed a fiscally irresponsible budget that hikes taxes by \$683 billion – truly the largest single tax increase in American history. Middle-class workers, seniors, married couples, families with and without children will all pay higher taxes to bankroll hundreds of billions in new spending. All this, yet there is not one iota of reform for runaway entitlement spending, a generational challenge that will bankrupt our childrens' futures.

Republicans have a better idea. Our budget proposal would balance the books by 2012, stop scheduled tax hikes on the middle class and tackle the generational crisis in entitlement spending. And it does this by reining in Washington spending and stopping earmarks cold for this year, not by raiding the taxpayers' wallet.

While Democrats committed themselves to passing their fiscally irresponsible budget, they failed – once again – to pass bipartisan Senate FISA legislation. Support for this bill has now become overwhelming, yet Democrats continue to defy the will of a majority of both Houses of Congress and 25 state attorneys general. They are willing to sacrifice our national security to appease the same left-wing fever swamps that called Gen. David Petraeus a traitor. The Majority Leader has claimed "there is no urgency" to this crisis. Yet terrorist attacks in Jerusalem and Pakistan over the last two weeks show the radical jihadist threat is real and, indeed, urgent. When Democrats plan to reconvene the House, the Protect America Act will have been expired and our national security undermined for 44 dangerous days.

It does not have to be this way.

Shortly after returning to work in January, we committed ourselves to offering up our best ideas for how to fix a broken Washington. We offered the American people a sensible – and bipartisan – way forward on earmarks, FISA, and border security. [It is a sign of the times that on all three of these critical issues, the Democrat majority is still playing catch-up.](#)

Ours is a minority with momentum: if we take the time over the next two weeks to aggressively communicate our message around the country, perhaps Democrat leaders feel enough pressure to drop their needless partisan swords, and then leaders of purpose and vision in both parties can come together to do the people's work. That is, after all, what our constituents sent us here to do.

Sincerely,

Adam Putnam
Chairman, House Republican Conference

A Minority with Momentum



Headlines

“House Democrats have become frustrated by the GOP drawing constant attention to” earmark reform.
(CQ, 3/5/08)

“Boehner and other Republicans have called for major earmark reform.”
(Roll Call, 2/25/08)

“Republicans Vow to Push House to Clear Senate's Electronic Surveillance Bill”
(CQ, 2/26/08)

“House Republicans are trying to force a vote on an **immigration-enforcement bill** to make Democrats deal with the controversial issue...”
(Arizona Daily Star, 3/12/08)

“Republicans ... have focused this week on Democratic opposition to their version of a new surveillance bill as a way to paint Democrats as soft on national security.”
(The Washington Post, 2/28/08)

“House GOP Again Forces Democrats' Hand Over FISA”
(Fox News, 3/6/08)

In Their Own Words

“When this Protect America Act expires, we are going to go back under the same set of rules and regulations that were in place before 9/11.”

- Rep. Pete Hoekstra, Top Republican on the Intelligence Committee (PBS NewsHour 2/15/08)

“For anyone to say that to blind ourselves to the information that would allow us to prevent disasters and prepare for the disasters, to say that that is irrelevant to the debate today shows how irrelevant the debate today is to the needs of the people of the State of California, the Nation, and, frankly, our allies.”

- Rep. Dan Lungren, former AG for the state of California, during floor debate on a Republican motion to bring the bipartisan Senate FISA bill to the floor. Democrats went on to pull the underlying bill, H.R. 2857. (3/6/08)

21

Number of Republican motions to recommit that have passed during the 110th Congress.

14

Total number of Democrat motions to recommit that passed in their dozen years in the minority.

A Minority with Momentum



"I was a supporter before I got there. But sometimes in Washington you start to believe some of this crap you read. Let me tell you something, it's not true. We're winning the fight."

- **Rep. Gresham Barrett to an audience of mostly National Guard members, after returning from a trip to Iraq** (The Greenville (SC) News, 3/7/08)

"Several Iraqi leaders with whom we spoke with and, frankly, regular Iraqis on the street see the vital and critical importance of a durable American presence, at least in the near term. And people understand the American soldier, combined with the cooperation of Sunni and Shia Arabs in this country, is the pathway toward stability and a successful free and democratic Iraq."

- **Rep. Mike Pence on "FOX News Sunday" after traveling to Iraq** (3/9/08)

Headlines

"For the second time in as many weeks House Republicans again forced Democrats on Thursday to pull a non-controversial bill from the House floor."

(Fox News, 3/6/08)

"Republicans have been pounding Pelosi for not allowing the Senate bill to come to the House floor for an up-or-down vote"

(The Politico, 3/6/08)

"Pelosi and Obey are considering going along with GOP calls for a one-year ban" on earmarks

(AP, 3/6/08)

"House Democratic leaders have grown irritated at what they consider hypocritical calls for earmark reform by Republicans..."

(The Hill, 3/6/08)

"Republicans were on the offensive, suggesting the only reason Democrats had possibly found religion on earmarks was because of public pressure."

(Congress Daily, 3/10/08)

"House Republicans push for vote on immigration enforcement bill"

(The Desert Sun, 3/12/08)

27

Number of tele-town halls conducted by House Republicans in the last week of February.

8

Number of tele-town halls conducted by House Democrats in the last week of February.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Budget Talking Points

House Republicans are ready to make the tough choices that balancing the people's books will require, including serious spending discipline and meaningful entitlement reform.

The Democrat budget fails the basic test of fiscal responsibility to the American people. Facing a slowing economy and soaring cost of living, American families have to tighten their belts and carefully budget their hard-earned money. But not House Democrats. Instead of reining in spending and preventing tax hikes on the American people, it is clear that Democrats are proposing a budget that includes the largest tax hike in American history, tens of billions in new Washington spending and no meaningful reform to the generational crisis of entitlement spending. **Hiking taxes on the middle class in order to finance new wasteful spending is the height of fiscal irresponsibility.**

The Democrat tax hike is the largest tax increase in American history. The Democrat budget includes a massive, broad-based, job-killing \$683 billion tax increase on working families and small business entrepreneurs – all to finance wasteful new Washington spending. In order to get our economy moving again, we must stop the Democrat tax hike in its tracks and instead cut taxes for middle-class families and small business owners.

- **Republicans proposed a budget that would provide new tax relief for the middle class.** Stopping the Democrats' scheduled tax hikes on middle-class married couples, parents and workers is critical to ensuring the long-term economic prosperity of working families. These pro-growth policies will strengthen our workforce, grow our economy, and keep America competitive.

Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. While families across America are forced to tighten their budgets to cope with skyrocketing energy costs, increasing health care costs, and coming Democrat tax increases, House Democrats are once again proposing tens of billions more in new federal spending. Washington politicians

and unelected bureaucrats do not know how to spend American tax dollars better than taxpayers.

- Republicans proposed a budget that would enforce real spending restraint. The federal government should not spend one penny more than it needs to. **Taxpayers deserve real fiscal accountability in Washington, and we should balance the federal budget without raising taxes on the American people.**
- Republicans proposed a budget that would provide for an immediate moratorium on earmarks. The immediate earmark moratorium House Republicans have called for is a significant step towards putting to rest the fears of hardworking taxpayers concerned with how their money is being spent in Washington. Not only have Democrats so far refused to join us in this effort, they have offered no solution to the broken earmark status quo.

Democrats punt on reforming runaway entitlement spending, again. As the recent Medicare 'trigger' legislation highlights solvency challenges, the Democrat budget fails to adequately address runaway entitlement spending, and presents a critical obstacle to a balanced budget. This budget proposal was another opportunity for Democrats to make good on their promises of fiscal responsibility. Failing to address entitlement reform only saddles the next generation with crushing debt while risking future benefit cuts and massive tax hikes. This is a critical generational issue, and to that end, Republicans presented a budget that would implement real entitlement reform.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

- **House Budget Committee Republicans:** [Summary: Republican Substitute Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2009](#)
- **Editorials:** Investor's Business Daily: [Taxocratic Rule](#); National Review Online: [Taxing Budget](#); The Washington Times: [The other budget plans](#)

State-By-State Impact of Democrat Tax Hike

How Much Will The Democrats' Budget Raise Taxes?

House Democrats' fiscally irresponsible budget will impose on American workers and businesses a \$683 billion tax hike – the largest in history. The table below illustrates how much more the average taxpayer will be paying on an annual basis under this budget.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE: Helpful charts related to entitlement reform and the budget can be found at the [Budget Committee Republicans](#) website.

State	Avg. Tax Hike	State	Avg. Tax Hike
Alabama	\$2,556	Montana	\$2,625
Alaska	\$2,896	Nebraska	\$2,802
Arizona	\$2,707	Nevada	\$2,924
Arkansas	\$2,462	New Hampshire	\$3,202
California	\$3,331	New Jersey	\$3,780
Colorado	\$3,093	New Mexico	\$2,345
Connecticut	\$4,311	New York	\$3,658
Delaware	\$3,015	North Carolina	\$2,672
Florida	\$3,040	North Dakota	\$2,614
Georgia	\$2,743	Ohio	\$2,716
Hawaii	\$2,716	Oklahoma	\$2,561
Idaho	\$2,598	Oregon	\$2,752
Illinois	\$3,283	Pennsylvania	\$3,030
Indiana	\$2,730	Rhode Island	\$3,005
Iowa	\$2,778	South Carolina	\$2,483
Kansas	\$2,863	South Dakota	\$2,596
Kentucky	\$2,563	Tennessee	\$2,611
Louisiana	\$2,642	Texas	\$2,755
Maine	\$2,701	Utah	\$2,651
Maryland	\$3,238	Vermont	\$2,863
Massachusetts	\$3,652	Virginia	\$3,120
Michigan	\$3,008	Washington	\$3,065
Minnesota	\$3,088	West Virginia	\$2,429
Mississippi	\$2,261	Wisconsin	\$2,965
Missouri	\$2,825	Wyoming	\$3,189

Post Office Congress Update

As of March 13, 2008, 195 measures have been signed into law during the 110th Congress. Of that amount, 167, or 85.6%, were noncontroversial (less than 10 votes against it) and 76 were federal building designations.

Latest Congressional Approval Ratings

	Date	Approve/Disapprove	Start of this Congress	Trend
NBC/WSJ	3/7-10/08	19/69	31/53	-12
AP/Ipsos	3/3-5/08	24/72	32/62	-8
FOX/Opinion Dynamics	2/19-20/08	22/68	32/47	-10

Sample Budget Op-Ed

The American economy, as resilient as it is, is charting rough waters, while soaring costs of living have forced working families to tighten their belts in order to make ends meet.

So why isn't the federal government doing the same?

For the second year running, Democrats in the House of Representatives have put forward a federal budget that stands as a model of fiscal irresponsibility.

For starters, the Democrat budget would dramatically increase the size and scope of the federal government, and do so by placing the largest tax increase in American history on the backs of hardworking American families.

The Democrat tax hike, which clocks in at a whopping \$683 billion, would hit as many as 116 million taxpayers. Workers at all income levels, married couples and parents would be hit especially hard. A middle class family of four with two children that currently earns \$50,000 annually would have to pay an additional \$2,155 in taxes under the Democrat plan.

This massive, job-killing tax hike is designed to finance hundreds of billions of dollars in new wasteful government spending. Washington doesn't have a revenue problem, Washington has a spending problem.

The House Democrat budget also fails the basic test of fiscal responsibility by not addressing the generational challenge of runaway entitlement spending.

If real entitlement reform is not enacted and soon, Washington will come perilously close to not being able to keep the promises it has made to baby boomers and growing adolescents alike. The numbers do not lie. Over the next five years, the cost of the promises Social Security and Medicare have made but cannot pay for will rise from \$38.7 trillion today to about \$52.5 trillion.

Last month, the Congress came together and displayed strong bipartisanship by passing an economic growth package aimed to help struggling taxpayers and small businesses.

This positive achievement, however, will be all for not if the Democrats succeed in passing the largest tax increase in

American history, as straightforwardly laid out in their budget.

House Republicans have vastly different budgetary and taxing priorities and views.

House Republicans support new tax cuts for the middle class, because Americans should be able to keep more of their hard-earned money and do what they do best: invest in their dreams and their futures.

In addition, taxpayers have every right to expect real fiscal accountability from Washington, and we should balance the federal budget without raising taxes on the American people.

Finally, Republicans are firmly committed to implementing meaningful entitlement reform that will ensure the promises made to Medicare and Social Security recipients are kept, and do it without cutting benefits or raising taxes.

The Democrats' economic policies today bear a striking resemblance to the failed tax-and-spend policies of the 1970s.

Back then, it took a Republican president and the conservative revolution he founded to do away with those high-dollar, high-tax liberal policies. In a 1986 radio address, Ronald Reagan said, "You know, our Founding Fathers considered the power of the purse the most important responsibility of the legislative branch. If that power is abused, it can have very serious consequences for our nation, not only threatening our prosperity with huge budget deficits but, ultimately, undermining the economic foundations of our safety and national security."

President Reagan was absolutely right – a budget is much more than a set of numbers on a slate, it is a reflection of our national priorities. It is a test of whether we have a strategic vision for America's future. On that score, Washington Democrats have failed the American people.

The difference between the fiscal priorities of House Democrats and Republicans are many, and stark. House Republicans will continue to work to implement forward-looking fiscal policies that hold the line on spending and keep taxes low for hardworking Americans.



What \$683 Billion Means: Defining the Democrat Tax Hike

House Democrats' fiscally irresponsible budget proposal would increase taxes \$683 billion over the next 5 years, according to the House's official scorekeeper, the [Congressional Budget Office](#).

This marks the single largest tax increase in American history.

In order to bankroll new wasteful Washington spending, House Democrats will increase individual income tax rates, cut the child tax credit, bring back the marriage penalty, reduce small business tax credits, and raise dividends and capital gains taxes.

Working families would be hit especially hard by the Democrat tax hike: [for instance, a family of four with two children that currently earns \\$50,000 annually would have to pay an additional \\$2,155 in taxes under the Democrat plan](#). That would amount to a 191% increase in their taxes.

In all, 116 million taxpayers would feel the pinch, with the average tax hike amounting to \$1,833.

Cutting the Child Tax Credit. The Democrat budget would cut the child tax credit in half, from \$1,000 to \$500, after 2010. According to House

Budget Committee Republicans, the Democrats' plan will burden American families an additional \$50.9 billion in taxes over the next 5 years.

Return of the Marriage Penalty.

In 2001, the Republican Congress reduced the marriage penalty in the tax code, which arises because of the progressive rate structure of U.S. income taxes. The Democrats' budget proposal lets these tax cuts expire so that some married couples pay more taxes than if they had filed separately as singles. House Budget Committee Republicans estimate that the Democrat proposal will penalize married couples with an additional \$25.4 billion in taxes.

Income Tax Hikes for All Americans, including Low-Income Families.

Pro-growth GOP tax relief has lowered income tax rates for all Americans. These tax cuts include a reduced rate of 10 percent for over 100 million taxpayers in the lowest-income brackets. According to the Tax Policy Center, failure to extend this tax cut will result in a \$472 billion tax increase on lower-income taxpayers over the next 10 years.

Reducing Tax Incentives for Small Businesses. The Democrat

budget will dramatically reduce tax incentives for American small businesses, which saved an average of \$5,169 last year due to pro-growth Republican tax relief. According to the CBO, these taxes will cost small businesses an additional \$13 billion over the next 5 years.

Death Tax. Pro-growth policies put in place by the Republican Congress phase out the death tax by 2010. This tax penalizes families for handing down the family farm or small business to the next generation. According to the CBO, the Democrat budget will saddle these families and the American economy with a \$181 billion tax hike over the next five years.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

- Ways and Means Republicans: Democrat Tax Increase Packet
- Department of the Treasury: Without Permanent Tax Relief, Millions Of Americans Will See Their Taxes Go Up By Billions Of Dollars In 2011
- Heritage Foundation: District-by-District Impact of Democrat Tax Hike

EARNED MEDIA THAT WORKS:

Budget Press Conferences

Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) used his recent “**Budget Media Tour**” to explain the budget process, highlight the problems with the Democrats’ budget and show the importance of balancing the people’s books.

After securing locations in their two largest media markets they notified local media. They sent out media advisories and followed-up with phone calls to all the reporters. They selected several charts off the Budget Committee’s website and had them made into posters that Mr. Goodlatte used at the press conferences. They reserved 30 minutes for each press conference. Mr. Goodlatte spoke for about 10 minutes and then took questions.

In the Next Day’s Papers...

Staunton News Leader

March 11, 2008

GOODLATTE WARNS DEMOCRATIC BUDGET PLAN WILL FORCE TAX HIKE

“Congressman Bob Goodlatte, R-6th, expressed concern Monday that a budget proposal from Democratic leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives could lead to large tax increases for American families ...

“The budget proposed by the House Democratic majority includes the largest tax increase in national history, Goodlatte said at a press conference at the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport. ...

“Families, individuals, small businesses and local governments, state governments, have all had to tighten their belt and the federal government should be doing the same thing,’ he said.”

The News-Virginian

March 11, 2008

GOODLATTE CALLS FOR FEDERAL SPENDING TO BE TIGHTENED

“Sixth District Congressman Bob Goodlatte wants to put the brakes on runaway federal spending, a U.S. House Democratic budget proposal for 2009.

“Goodlatte, R-Va., armed with a series of graphs and charts, told the media on Monday that federal spending must be slowed to lower the burden on taxpayers and not add to the country’s soaring \$9 trillion deficit.”

Harrisonburg Daily News Record

March 11, 2008

GOODLATTE LAUDS TAX CUTS

“Republican tax cuts have spurred economic activity creating jobs and revenue for the federal government, U.S. Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Roanoke, said Monday afternoon during a stop in the Shenandoah Valley.

“Goodlatte, who stopped at the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport near Weyers Cave, focused his remarks on the budget deficit and the role of tax cuts in creating revenues that could be used to reduce the \$9 trillion national debt.”

WHSV-TV

March 11, 2008

GOODLATTE SAYS BUDGET IS BAD NEWS

“Congressman Bob Goodlatte says a proposed Democratic house budget will hurt taxpayers and the faltering economy.

“He held a press conference at the Valley Regional Airport Monday in Weyers Cave. He says the proposed Democratic budget increases spending and will force an average tax hike of \$1,800 per family.”

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONGRESSMAN GOODLATTE TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET

Monday, March 10th

2:45: Congressman Goodlatte will hold a press conference about the Federal budget, which will be voted on by the House of Representatives next week, and the importance of reining in wasteful government spending. The press conference will be held in the lobby of the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport located in Weyers Cave.

RELEASE: Goodlatte Calls for a Balanced Budget

Washington, D.C.: Today Congressman Bob Goodlatte made stops in Roanoke and Weyers Cave to discuss the Federal budget process and the importance of reining in wasteful government spending.

Recently the House Majority unveiled their proposed budget resolution for fiscal year 2009. This budget proposal, which sets federal funding levels for the coming fiscal year, will be voted on by the full House of Representatives this week.

This resolution calls for the largest tax increase in American history: \$683 billion over the next 5 years. This proposal significantly increases the tax burden on the middle class to pay for new wasteful government spending. Facing a slowing economy and an increased cost of living, Americans have to tighten their belts and carefully budget their hard-earned money. It's time the Federal government did the same.

The budget proposal eliminates the critical tax cuts the Congress passed in 2001 and 2003, which means millions of Americans will be faced with higher tax bills in the future. The proposal includes a higher marginal tax rate, a reduction of the child tax credit, an increase in the marriage penalty, an increase in the estate tax, and an increase in capital gains and dividends tax rates. This substantial tax increase is used to pay for increased government spending. Specifically, the House Majority's budget proposal exceeds the President's spending levels by \$276 billion over 5 years.

"Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem," commented Congressman Goodlatte. "The tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 represent important pro-growth policies which strengthen our workforce, grow our economy and keep America competitive. Instead of raising taxes we must work to eliminate wasteful government spending."

Congressman Goodlatte has consistently worked to hold the line on government spending by voting for the tightest budgets possible each year. Additionally, in the opening hours of the 110th Congress, Congressman Goodlatte introduced a balanced budget Constitutional amendment, which will force

Congress to enact fiscally responsible spending measures, reduce the deficit, and ensure that the money our citizens work so hard to earn is not squandered on wasteful spending and programs. This resolution, which currently has the support of 160 other Members of Congress, passed the House of Representatives in 1995 by a vote of 300-132 but has not been brought to the floor by the current leadership of the House.

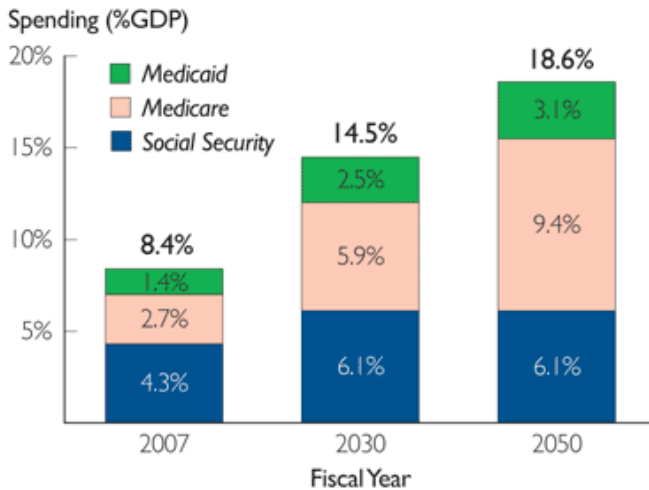
"The federal government must be lean and efficient and fiscally responsible," said Rep. Goodlatte. "We must work to both eliminate every cent of waste and squeeze every cent of value out of each dollar our citizens entrust to us. Families all across our nation understand what it means to make tough decisions each day about what they can and cannot afford, and elected officials should not be allowed to ignore these tough decisions in the name of political expediency when creating spending policies for the federal government."

The balanced budget amendment is a commonsense measure that is long overdue. It requires that Congress not spend more than it receives in revenues, requires the President to submit a balanced budget to Congress, and requires a 3/5 majority vote to increase the debt limit. A Constitutional amendment will force Congress to eliminate unnecessary and wasteful spending and make the decisions necessary to balance the budget and eliminate the federal deficit. Currently, 49 of 50 states have a balanced budget requirement.

"Congress has a clear choice in the coming months," said Congressman Goodlatte. "We can control spending, paving the way for a return to surpluses and ultimately paying down the national debt, or we can pass this fiscally irresponsible budget, which takes money out of the hands of hard working Americans and sends it to Washington to be squandered on out of control government spending, leading us further down the road of chronic deficits. Even in these challenging times it is important for government to be fiscally responsible."

The Urgency of Entitlement Reform

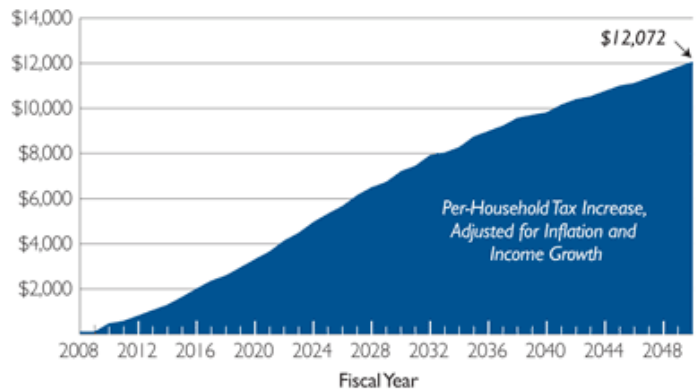
Major Entitlements Will Expand to 18.6 Percent of GDP



Note: This represents the alternative baseline scenario.

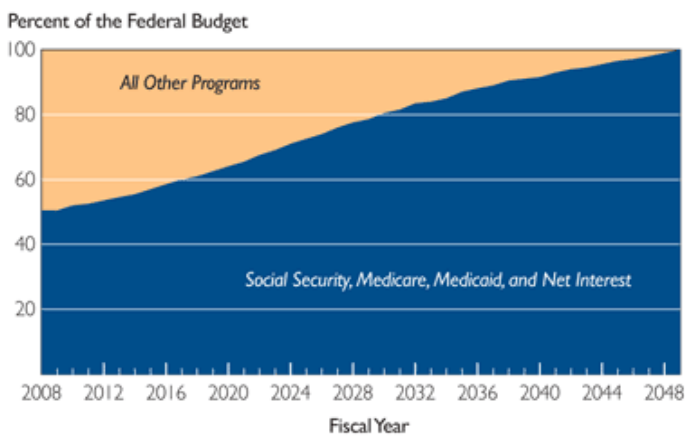
Source: Congressional Budget Office, "The Long-Term Budget Outlook," December 2007, at www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/88xx/doc8877/12-13-LTBO.pdf (February 25, 2008).

Bad Option 1: Funding Entitlements with Tax Increases



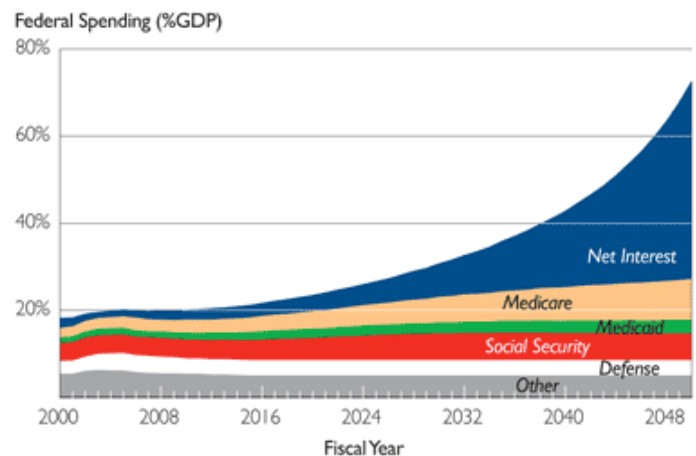
Source: Heritage Foundation calculations based on data from the Congressional Budget Office.

Bad Option 2: Funding Entitlements by Cutting Other Programs



Source: Heritage Foundation calculations based on data from the Congressional Budget Office.

Bad Option 3: Funding Entitlements with Budget Deficits



Source: Heritage Foundation calculations based on data from the Congressional Budget Office.

Source: Heritage Foundation



NATIONAL SECURITY

FISA Talking Points

IRRESPONSIBLE: House Democrats fiddle while the **Protect America Act remains expired**. House Democrats found time to conduct a real estate deal in the Virgin Islands, but they failed to give the bipartisan Senate FISA bill the up-or-down vote it deserves.

- **The Weekly Standard:** “The ‘Don’t Protect America’ Democrats. ... Why won’t the House leadership bring the FISA Amendments Act to the floor? Democrats provide different reasons. The Capitol Hill publication CongressDaily quotes House Democratic aides who cite the ‘tight floor schedule’ as the reason this necessary and important law has to wait. Yet the House found time for ‘HR 1143,’ which approves a lease agreement between the Interior Department and the Caneel Bay luxury beach resort in the U.S. Virgin Islands.” ([Editorial, 3/17/08 issue](#))

It has now been nearly a month since the Protect America Act expired. As a result, **Democrats have left America at significant risk and potentially blind to new terrorist plots**. Our intelligence agencies have lost critical tools that combat terrorism and keep America safe.

- “Are we more vulnerable? Absolutely,” **retired Admiral Bobby R. Inman**, former director of the National Security Agency and deputy director of the CIA, told the [Austin-American Statesman](#) when asked about the expiration of the Protect America Act.
- **Glenn Sumalsy**, a Harvard national security expert, wrote in the February 15 edition of [The Tampa Tribune](#) that “the global technologies of cell phones, computers, the internet, and other such means of communication - which were not, and could not have been, envisioned by the drafters of FISA in the 1970s - have changed the way information moves around the world. Herein lie the gaps meant to be filled” by the Protect America Act.

The House should immediately take up the Senate-passed FISA bill. This bill passed the Senate with 68 votes, and it would pass the House with an overwhelming bipartisan vote if House Democrat leaders simply gave it the up-or-down vote it deserves. Instead, Democrat leaders rejected the clear, bipartisan will of Congress. Ever since, pressure has been building around the country on Democrats to rethink their misguided and dangerous decision to allow the Protect America Act to stay expired

- **A bipartisan group of 25 State Attorneys General** wrote a [letter to House leaders](#) on March 4 urging passage of the bipartisan Senate bill: “Passing S. 2248 would ensure our intelligence experts are once again able to conduct real-time surveillance. ... As Attorneys General, we are our states’ chief law enforcement officials and therefore responsible for taking whatever action is necessary to keep our citizens safe. With S. 2248 still pending in the House of Representatives, our national security is in jeopardy. We therefore urge the House of Representatives to schedule a vote and pass the FISA Amendments Act of 2007.”

House Democrats continue to put the interests of personal injury lawyers before bipartisan legislation to combat terrorism and keep America safe.

- **Robert Novak:** “The recess by House Democrats amounts to a judgment that losing the generous support of trial lawyers, the Democratic Party’s most important financial base, is more dangerous than losing the anti-terrorist issue to Republicans. Dozens of lawsuits have been filed against the phone companies ... Big money is involved. Amanda Carpenter, a Townhall.com columnist, has prepared a spreadsheet showing that 66 trial lawyers representing plaintiffs in the telecommunications suits have contributed \$1.5 million to Democratic senators and causes.”

FISA Timeline

April 13, 2007: The White House asks Congress to update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) of 1978 to “bring it into line with rapid changes in communications technology,” thereby closing a dangerous loophole that allows terrorists to elude our intelligence network. (AP)

May 11, 2007: Rep. Heather Wilson (R-NM) offers a FISA reform amendment during House debate of the FY '08 intelligence authorization bill. Democrats defeat the amendment on a party-line vote. (H.R. 2082, Roll Call 324)

July 12-Aug. 1, 2007: House Republicans offer no fewer than eight different motions to allow the House to vote to close the terrorist loophole. Each one fails on a party-line vote.

Aug. 3, 2007: With just hours remaining until Congress stands in recess until after Labor Day, House Democrats offer flawed FISA legislation that fails to pass. (H.R. 3356, Roll Call 821)

Aug. 3, 2007: By a vote of 60-28, the Senate passes the Protect America Act, a Republican proposal that permanently closes the terrorist loophole. (S. 1927, Roll Call 309)

Aug. 4, 2007: The Protect America Act passes the House with 186 Republicans and just 41 Democrats voting in favor. Every member of the majority’s leadership votes against the bill. (S. 1927, Roll Call 836)

Aug. 5, 2007: The President signs the Protect America Act into law, starting a 180-day period that will end with the Feb. 1 expiration of these critical reforms – unless Congress acts.

Oct. 17, 2007: Democrats hastily pull their latest attempt at comprehensive FISA reform after their “bin Laden loophole” is exposed: a requirement in the Democrat bill that intelligence officers consult government lawyers before wire-tapping al Qaeda or other terror groups. The ensuing legislative “train wreck” among Democrats causes leaders to stop debate on the bill and postpone consideration. (H.R. 3773; ABC News)

Oct. 26, 2007: Senate Intelligence Committee approves a bipartisan FISA modernization bill that was supported by the Administration. The committee vote was 13-2.

Nov. 15, 2007: House Democrats wait nearly a month to bring FISA back to the floor, ramming through a virtual carbon copy of the FISA measure Democrats brought up and then pulled from consideration in October. (H.R. 3773, Roll Call 1120)

Jan. 28, 2008: 21 “Blue Dog” House Democrats write a letter to Speaker Pelosi supporting passage of the bipartisan Senate FISA bill, stating that **“the consequences of not passing such a measure could place our national security at undue risk.”**

Jan. 29, 2008: With the Protect America Act set to expire on Feb. 1, the House and Senate pass a 15-day extension of the law. (H.R. 5104)

Feb. 12, 2008: By a vote of 68-29, the Senate passes legislation updating FISA and providing legal immunity to telecommunications firms. (S. 2248, Roll Call 20)

Feb. 13, 2008: House Democrats fail in their attempt to pass a 21-day extension of the Protect America Act (H.R. 5347), which the President has signaled he would veto.

Feb. 14, 2008: After the President calls on the House to pass the Senate’s bipartisan bill, Democrats in the House instead decide they are willing to let the Protect America Act expire and adjourn for the President’s Day recess without acting.

Midnight – Feb. 16, 2008: The Protect America Act expires, costing our intelligence community critical tools they need to track the movements of suspected terrorists.

Feb. 28, 2008: In a colloquy with Republican Whip Roy Blunt, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer announces that it’s his intent for the full House to take up FISA legislation the following week.

Mar. 5, 2008: CongressDaily reports that it’s unlikely the House will take up FISA legislation for the week, citing a “tight floor schedule.” This despite a vote the day before on H.R. 1143, legislation authorizing a land deal for a luxury resort in the Virgin Islands.

Midnight – Mar. 8, 2008: The 21-day window House Democrats had requested for extension of the Protect America Act closes.

Mar. 11, 2008: House Republicans declare “dead on arrival” revised Democrat FISA legislation that will not give our intelligence officials the tools they need to track in real time the movements of foreign terrorists.

Feb. 14 – Mar. 12, 2008: House Republicans offer no fewer than nine different motions to allow the House to vote on the bipartisan Senate FISA bill. Each one fails on a party-line vote.

Notable FISA Quotes

- In an interview published by [National Journal Magazine](#) on Friday, March 7, **John Brennan**, a foreign policy adviser to Sen. Barack Obama and former CIA official who once served as head of the National Counterterrorism Center, said, “There is this great debate over whether or not the telecom companies should in fact be given immunity for their agreement to provide support and cooperate with the government after 9/11. I do believe strongly that they should be granted that immunity, because they were told to do so by the appropriate authorities that were operating in a legal context, and so I think that's important. And I know people are concerned about that, but I do believe that's the right thing to do. I do believe the Senate version of the FISA bill addresses the issues appropriately.”
- Last week, a bipartisan group of **25 state attorneys general** wrote a [letter to House leaders](#) in support of the Senate bill's passage: “A bipartisan majority of the United States Senate recently approved S. 2248. But until it is also passed by the House of Representatives, intelligence officials must obtain FISA warrants every time they attempt to monitor suspected terrorists in overseas countries. Passing S. 2248 would ensure our intelligence experts are once again able to conduct real-time surveillance. ... With S. 2248 still pending in the House of Representatives, our national security is in jeopardy.”
- In its [bipartisan findings](#), the **Senate Intelligence Committee** concluded in Oct. 2007 that “electronic communication service providers acted on a good faith belief that the President's program, and their assistance, was lawful.” The Committee based its decision to include retroactive immunity for telecom providers in the Senate FISA bill on “its examination of the written communications from U.S. Government officials to certain providers.”
- **20 Senate Democrats** supported final passage of [S. 2248](#), including Senate Intelligence Chairman Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and Kent Conrad (D-ND), Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. Sen. Conrad wrote in a Feb. 28 letter to the editor of [The Fargo Forum](#): “The FISA law needed reform to account for modern information technology, current patterns of communication and the nature of the threats facing our country. ... Leaving [telecommunications companies] completely subject to civil litigation could cause problems in vital intelligence collection in the future.”
- **21 “Blue Dog” House Democrats** expressed support for the bipartisan Senate FISA bill in a Jan. 28 [letter to Speaker Pelosi](#), stating that “we have it within our ability to replace the expiring Protect America Act by passing strong, bipartisan FISA modernization legislation that can be signed into law and we should do so – the consequences of not passing such a measure could place our national security at undue risk.”

FISA By The Numbers

68

Number of U.S. Senators who [voted for final passage](#) on S. 2248, bipartisan legislation that would give our intelligence agencies the tools they need to track in real time the movements of foreign terrorists.

92

Number of votes cast in the House of Representatives since the Senate passed its bipartisan FISA bill. One such vote authorized a land deal between the Secretary of the Interior and the Caneel Bay Resort in the Virgin Islands. (As of March 12)

25

Number of state attorneys general who wrote a letter to House leaders on [March 4](#) supporting immediate House passage of the bipartisan Senate FISA bill.

2.3 Million

Number of members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. On [February 21](#), the VFW called on House leaders to pass the bipartisan Senate FISA bill.

21

Number of Blue Dog House Democrats who wrote Speaker Pelosi a letter on [January 28](#) supporting passage of the bipartisan Senate FISA bill.

\$0.65

The average price of retail [gasoline per gallon](#) nationwide on October 25, 1978, the day President Jimmy Carter signed the original Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act into law. Enactment of the bipartisan Senate intelligence bill would mark the first substantive, long-term improvements to FISA.

ON THE HORIZON

Bipartisan Border Security Discharge Petition

Porous borders pose a grave and growing threat to our national security and to the economic stability of cities and towns across America. House Republicans – and a number of rightly concerned Democrats – believe this issue demands action now and should not wait for a new president or a new decade.

Democrat leaders must stop obstructing a vote on bipartisan immigration enforcement legislation that will improve border security and reduce magnets for illegal immigration. Although we are in an era where common sense legislation too often gets caught up in partisan gridlock, this is not one of those times. The American people have called on Congress time and again to act to secure our borders, and House Democrat leaders should listen to them.

Securing our borders should be at the heart of our national security strategy. To that end, **Rep. Thelma Drake (R-VA)** has filed a discharge petition to force a vote on H.R. 4088, a bipartisan bill that would address this critical security priority. If 218 Members sign the petition, House Democrat leaders will be forced to hold a vote on this bill. But Republicans cannot do it alone. It will require Democrats to join us in forcing Speaker Pelosi to give this measure the attention and action it deserves. [NOTE: As of 3/12/08, 163 Members have signed [the discharge petition](#), including six Democrats.]

The SAVE Act – which is sponsored by **Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC)** and has 145 co-sponsors, including 97 Republicans and 48 Democrats – provides for the following:

- An increase in border patrol agents by 8,000 over the next five years; an additional 1,150 ICE agents, 140 Criminal Alien Program officers, and 250 state and local law enforcement for immigration support.
- A strengthening of alien smuggling penalties.
- Expedited removal of and increased detention facilities for illegal aliens.
- Authority for additional border infrastructure and aerial vehicles/surveillance equipment.
- Strengthened Employer Enforcement: (1) mandates usage of the E-Verify system, which allows employers to make an efficient and accurate check of a hire's employment eligibility; (2) requires employer/employee notification of Social Security number mismatches and multiple uses; (3) requires establishment of electronic birth and death registration databases; (4) penalizes specified employers for failure to correct information returns; and (5) prohibits employers from deducting from gross income wages paid to unauthorized aliens.

A number of Democrat lawmakers support the SAVE Act:

- **Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC)*:** "I would have preferred that the SAVE (Secure America through Verification and Enforcement) Act came to the floor through regular order, but it deserves to be debated and voted upon on the House floor." ([Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times, 3/12/08](#))
- **Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA):** "If you are serious about ending the flow of illegal immigrants into the United States, you will support the SAVE Act." (Release, 11/6/07)
- **Rep. Michael Arcuri (D-NY):** "I am a cosponsor of

the SAVE Act because it makes the critical investments we need to keep our country safe." (Release, 11/2/07)

- **Rep. Charlie Melancon (D-LA):** "The SAVE Act is a serious response to the illegal immigration crisis in our country, and I will work with my colleagues to get it passed by Congress." (Release, 11/7/07)
- **Rep. Joe Donnelly (D-IN):** "The SAVE Act offers an immigration policy that strengthens our borders and enforces our employment laws. I will work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get the bill to the floor." (Release, 2/5/08)
- **Rep. Brad Ellsworth (D-IN)*:** "This bill takes critical steps to provide local law enforcement with the tools and resources they need to enforce the immigration laws we already have on the books." (Release, 11/6/07)
- **Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN):** "The SAVE Act provides a smarter approach to a growing national security problem. It helps the people on the frontlines, the judges in the courtrooms and the employers who want to operate a business lawfully." (Release, 11/6/07)
- **Rep. Steve Kagen (D-WI):** "The SAVE Act will begin ... by increasing security at both our northern and southern borders and empowering small businesses with the technology to easily determine who is and is not available for legal hire." (Release, 11/6/07)
- **Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)*:** "We should pass this bill now!" (Release, 11/6/07)

*Indicates a Member who has signed the Republican discharge petition.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

- Office of the Republican Whip: [Background on Discharge Petition and SAVE Act](#)

The 2nd Petraeus-Crocker Report

On Tuesday, April 8, and Wednesday April 9, General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker will return to Capitol Hill to give an assessment of the situation on the ground in Iraq.

Public perception of the surge and the U.S. mission in Iraq continues to improve. As The Wall Street Journal reported on March 4, “the perception that the U.S. troop surge in Iraq has succeeded is changing some public views of the war, potentially blunting Democrats' political edge on the issue.”

- **Pew Research Center Poll** (2/20-24/08)
48% of Americans believe U.S. military efforts in Iraq are going well (vs. 30% in Feb. 2007.)
53% of Americans believe the U.S. will succeed in Iraq (vs. 47% in Feb. 2007.)
- **USA Today/Gallup** (2/8-10/08)
43% of Americans say the surge of U.S. troops in Iraq is making the situation there better (vs. 22% in July 2007.) This is “the most positive review of the surge Gallup has measured since it began.”

Anecdotal and statistical evidence continue to point to the success of the surge. While there is still hard work to be done, the surge has achieved significant progress in the security arena.

- **Gen. Petraeus:** “In the last seven months or so, overall attacks have decreased by some 60% or so. Civilian deaths down by 60% as well. The ethno-sectarian component of that, of deaths, has decreased even more...between 80-90%.”
(Radio Interview, 2/15/08)
- **Maj. Gen. Kevin J. Bergner, MNF-Iraq spokesman:** “The Iraqi security forces today number about 531,000...We also see in 9 of 18 provinces in Iraq that Iraqi security forces along with the civil authority in those provinces have achieved a level of responsibility that's referred to as provincial Iraqi control which means Iraqi security forces...are in the first line of responsibility in providing security in those provinces.” (Operational Update, 3/05/08)

- **After traveling to Iraq, one of Speaker Pelosi's fellow California Democrats touted the success of the surge.** Rep. Jim “Costa sees progress in Iraq. ... Iraqi violence is down, Costa noted ... following his return from Iraq and Afghanistan. ‘I think the violence has been significantly reduced,’ Costa said...” (The Fresno Bee, 3/6/08)
- **The Washington Post's Charles Krauthammer:** “Much of Baghdad is returning to normal. There are 90,000 neighborhood volunteers -- ordinary citizens who act as auxiliary police and vital informants on terrorist activity -- starkly symbolizing the insurgency's loss of popular support. Captured letters of al-Qaeda leaders reveal despair as they are driven -- mostly by Iraqi Sunnis, their own Arab co-religionists -- to flight and into hiding.” (2/22/08)
- **Washington Post editorial:** “The progress since last summer has been remarkable: In Baghdad...the number of attacks dropped 75 percent from June to last month. U.S. casualties since Oct. 1 are half the average for 2006, and the lowest for any similar period since the war began. But as Gen. Petraeus repeatedly has emphasized, the gains are fragile. It's not certain that the relative peace in and around Baghdad will hold as American troop levels come down.” (2/13/08)
- **Academy award winner and UN goodwill ambassador Angelina Jolie:** “As for the question of whether the surge is working, I can only state what I wit-



nessed: U.N. staff and those of non-governmental organizations seem to feel they have the right set of circumstances to attempt to scale up their programs.”
(2/28/08)

The surge has also succeeded in giving Iraq’s political structure the time and space it needs to achieve meaningful reconciliation and national stability.

- **The Iraqi parliament passed a landmark de-Baathification law in January.** “Iraq’s parliament adopted legislation Saturday on the reinstatement of thousands of former supporters of Saddam Hussein’s Baath party to government jobs, a key benchmark sought by the United States as a step toward easing sectarian tensions.” (AP, 1/12/08)
- **The Iraqi parliament moved on three critical reforms in mid-February.** “Iraq’s parliament on Wednesday passed three key pieces of legislation that set a date for provincial elections, allot \$48 billion for 2008 spending, and provide limited amnesty to detainees in Iraqi custody.” (AP, 1/13/08)
 NOTE: Roughly two weeks after it passed, the measure providing for provincial elections by October was vetoed by the Iraqi presidency council.
- **Iraq’s economy continues to grow.** “The International Monetary Fund Wednesday said Iraq’s economy

would expand significantly from the previous year’s lows as long as the security situation allows for higher oil production and investment... the higher oil output would push gross domestic product growth significantly up to over 7 percent, possibly higher, in 2008 and 2009, from just 1.3 percent in 2007 when bitter sectarian violence drove the country to the brink of civil war.” (Reuters, 1/17/08)

Despite mounting evidence of the surge’s success, Democrat leaders continue to insist on defeatist rhetoric.

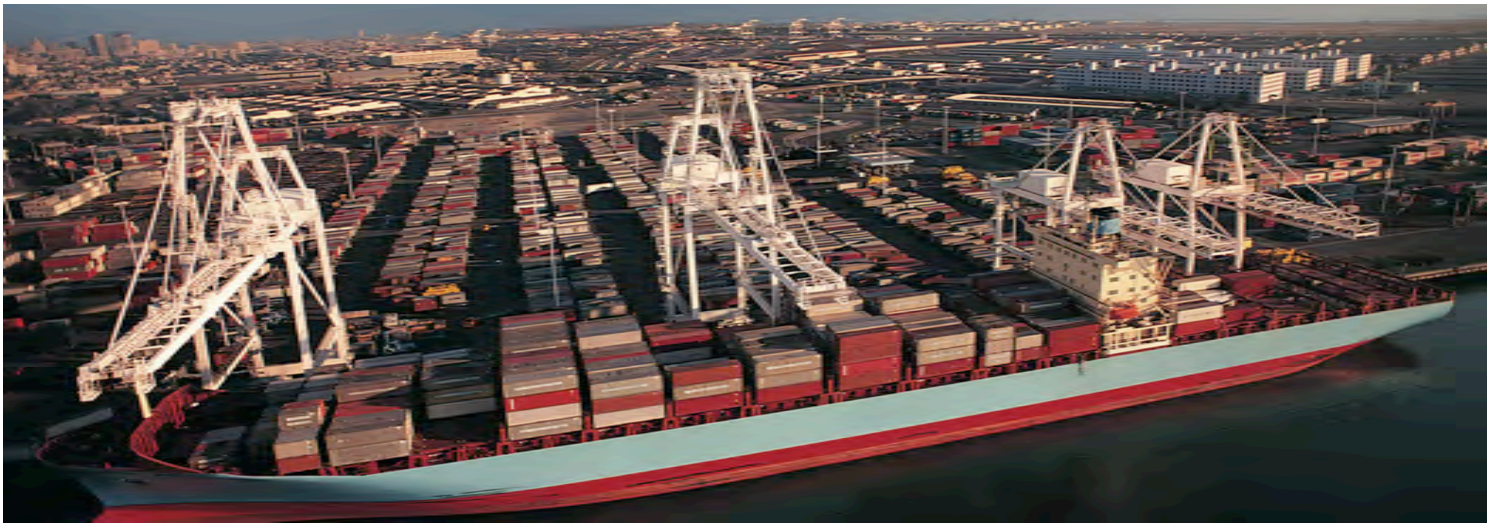
- **Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Iraq “a failure” last month.** During an appearance on CNN’s “Late Edition” on Feb. 10, the Speaker twice referred to Iraq as a “failure,” and stated that the surge had “not produced the desired effect.” According to the transcript, the Speaker said, “The purpose of the surge was to create a secure time for the government of Iraq to make the political change to bring reconciliation to Iraq.”

The Speaker went on to tell host Wolf Blitzer: “There haven’t been gains ... The gains have not produced the desired effect, which is the reconciliation of Iraq. This is a failure. This is a failure.”

IRAQ: February 2007 vs. February 2008

(Source: The New York Times, 3/9/08)

	Feb. 2007	Feb. 2008
Iraqi Civilian Deaths From Violence	2,700	700
U.S. Troop Deaths	81	36
Iraqi Security Forces	323	425
Iraqi Security Forces Fatalities	150	110
Daily Attacks By Insurgents and Militias	210	65
Joint U.S.-Security Stations in Baghdad	15	72
Sunni Volunteers Working With U.S. and Iraqi forces	0	60
Iraqi Civilians Newly Displaced by Violence (in thousands)	100	30
Multiple-Fatality Bombings	56	21
Oil production (in millions of barrels per day)	2.1	2.5
Household Fuel Supply (as percentage of estimated need)	61	64
Money Going From Baghdad to Average Iraqi Province (in millions of dollars per year)	50	100



Colombia Free Trade Agreement

On March 4, President Bush called on Congress to pass the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This accord strengthens our economic partnership with a critical regional ally in the War on Terror.

The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement represents an opportunity to generate better, high-paying jobs and raise the standard of living for American workers. The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement will knock down trade barriers and level the playing field for U.S. workers and businesses, expanding exports and creating valuable jobs here at home.

- “America’s two-way trade with Colombia reached \$16 billion in 2006, making Colombia our fifth largest trading partner in Latin America and our largest export market for U.S. agriculture products in South America. In 2006, total U.S. goods exports to Colombia reached \$6.7 billion.” (USTR, 8/07)
- “In 2006, for example, 92 percent of U.S. imports from Colombia entered the United States duty-free under our most-favored nation tariff rates and various preference programs.” (USTR,

8/20/07) “By contrast, exports of U.S. manufactured goods to Colombia...face average tariffs of 14%.” (Latin America Trade Coalition)

The U.S.-Colombia FTA is critical to our long-term national security interests, which depend on a stable, democratic, and prosperous Western Hemisphere. Colombia is a key ally in fighting terrorism, drug trafficking, and anti-democracy forces in Latin America. This agreement demonstrates America’s commitment to economic freedom and prosperity.

- **Ways and Means Chairman Charlie Rangel (D-NY)** “recently said that failing to approve the Colombia FTA would be a ‘a rebuff to a great president and to a great country and a great ally.’” (The Wall Street Journal, 12/27/07)
- **Colombian President Alvaro Uribe** “says his administration takes labor violence seriously, as shown by a 75 percent drop in the number of trade unionists murdered each year since he took office in 2002. The Colombian government has also tripled spending on protec-

tion for unionists, human rights activists and other at-risk individuals and established a special unit to prosecute crimes against trade unionists.” (Reuters, 2/7/08)

- **Heritage Foundation:** “A failed TPA will lead Colombians and people from other countries in Latin America to conclude that the U.S. is not a reliable partner. Effectively, it would be a vote of “no confidence” in the Colombian people, which would be a public relations bonanza for Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez and the FARC narco-terrorists he is trying to legitimize in order to undermine the Uribe government.” (Heritage Foundation, 2/27/08)

NOTE: As of 3/12/08, the Administration had not yet submitted the Colombia FTA for Congressional approval. The Politico reported on that day, however, that the “White House is moving toward sending the Colombia Free Trade Agreement to Congress without the blessing of Democratic leaders.” (3/12/08)

March 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Anniversary of the start of the Iraq War (2003)	20 Monthly FEC Report due	21 Good Friday National Agriculture Day	22
<u>District Work Period</u>						
23 Easter	24	25	26	27	28	29 Knights of Columbus Founders Day 23rd Amendment Ratified (1961)
<u>District Work Period</u>						
30 Doctor's Day	31 Votes @ 6:30 p.m.					

April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>National Child Abuse Prevention Month</i>		1 House of Representatives convenes for the 1st time (1789)	2	3	4 40th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. GOP Conference Press Secretary Workshop	5
6	7 World Health Day	8 <i>Petraeus-Crocker Testify</i>	9 National Prisoner of War Recognition Day Saddam Hussein statue toppled in Baghdad (2003)	10	11	12
13	14 GOP Conference District Director Fly-In	15 FEC Quarterly Report Due Tax Day	16	17	18	19
<i>National Library Week</i>						
20 FEC Monthly Report Due <i>Passover</i>	21 PA Primary Earth Day	22	23	24	25 National Arbor Day	26 White House Correspondent's Association Dinner
27 <i>National Volunteer Week</i>	28	29	30			

May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Jewish American Heritage Month</i></p> <p><i>National Family Month</i></p> <p><i>National Military Appreciation Month</i></p>	<p><i>Women's Health Care Month</i></p> <p><i>National Mental Health Month</i></p>			<p>1</p> <p>May Day</p>	2	3 <p>National Day of Prayer</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p><i>Teacher Appreciation Week</i></p>	<p>Cinco de Mayo</p>	<p>IN & NC Primaries</p> <p>National Teacher's Day</p>		<p>V-E Day (1945)</p> <p>World Red Cross Day</p>		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>Mother's Day</p> <p><i>National Women's Health Week</i></p> <p><i>National Police Week</i></p>	<p>NE GOP Primary, WV</p> <p>Dem Primary</p>					<p>Armed Forces Day</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		<p>FEC Monthly Report Due</p>				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<p>National Missing Children's Day</p>	<p>Memorial Day</p>	<p>American Red Cross Founded (1881)</p>				