

Executive Summary of Reid Omnibus (S.3297)

The Reid Omnibus is **398 pages** and contains approximately **35 various bills**.

Although a CBO score is not available, based on previous estimates of the individual bills, the legislation authorizes **more than \$11 billion in federal spending**. In addition, the bill contains not even one provision that reduces spending in order to offset the \$11.3 billion in authorizations, much of which is new spending, not previously authorized.

In addition, the Reid Omnibus **creates at least 34 new federal programs**, many of which are duplicative of current government programs and initiatives.

Contrary to the bill's title ("To advance America's priorities"), this legislation **prioritizes the parochial wishes of many senators** above the true needs of the American people. It is unfortunate the Majority Leader has chosen to spend time on this legislation and not on issues such as skyrocketing energy prices, out of control growth in government bureaucracy and federal spending, and reauthorizing the defense funding desperately needed by our troops stationed at home and abroad, just to name a few.

The Captive Primates Safety Act (S. 1498) is just one example of the misplaced priorities included in this legislation. The bill would make it illegal to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase nonhuman primates (such as monkeys and apes), costing taxpayers \$17 million over the next five years. The Reid omnibus also includes the largest earmark in congressional history-\$1.5 billion for the DC Metro, a provision directing NOAA to study historic shipwrecks, and a bill to spend \$12 million on a botanical greenhouse in Suitland, Maryland. While these bills may be a priority for a few senators, it is most certainly not a priority for most Americans when compared to rising energy costs and increasing food prices.

While many of the individual bills included in the Reid omnibus attempt to address important issues for many Americans, such as those suffering from the effects of strokes and paralysis, it does so ineffectively, by duplicating spending and existing programs that have not demonstrated true results, and it does so at the expense of every single taxpayer in this nation who is watching more and more of their family budget be siphoned away by taxes, only to be wasted by a federal government that can't even balance its own budget.

Finally, many of the bills contained in this legislation have been changed from the original language in those bills on which Senator Coburn has placed a hold. Some of these changes reflect requests Senator Coburn has made previously in negotiations, but the sponsors have refused to address until now, while other changes are the addition of more parochial interests of just a few senators. In addition, at least six bills in the package are not being held by Senator Coburn, and Majority Leader Reid himself previously objected to the passage of S. 1810, the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act. It is clear this bill needs and deserves extensive scrutiny, both by the American public, and members of Congress, who should be able to fully debate and amend this bill in the light of day.