



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For Immediate Release
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Highlights: Continuing Resolution

WASHINGTON – Today, Dave Obey (D-WI), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, released the details of the continuing resolution to fund government operations at last year's levels through March 6th, 2009.

The bill is part of a package that also includes the FY 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Homeland Security Appropriations bills as well as a disaster relief package.

HIGHLIGHTS

Auto Efficiency Loans: \$7.5 billion to support \$25 billion in loans to help American automakers to update their factories in order to build more fuel efficient cars and trucks.

Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children(WIC): \$1 billion above 2008 to provide mothers and their children with proper nutrition. Costs are up as more families struggle with the economic downturn and rising food costs.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program: \$23.5 million above 2008 to prevent nearly 70,000 low-income women, infants, children, and elderly citizens, from losing access to food.

Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP): \$2.5 billion above 2008 to help families pay rising home energy bills, helping an additional 2 million households and raising the average grant from \$355 to \$550.

Offshore Drilling Ban: expires on September 30th, the White House rejected any language to provide for a responsible expansion of drilling in the OCS. All other laws and regulations concerning offshore leasing and development remain in place.

Pell Grants: \$2.5 billion above 2008, to prevent cuts to student aid midway through the year.

Census: \$2.9 billion, to help the Census Bureau to ramp up operations for the 2010 Census.

Weatherization: \$250 million above 2008 to improve the energy efficiency of low-income housing. This amount will weatherize about 100,000 homes, saving each household about \$400 in energy costs this coming year.

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