

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2009

The Honorable John Spratt
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on the Budget
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt:

Last week during the Budget Committee hearing with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, you noted that the President's Budget is full of placeholders and promises. We would also note that the Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2010 is also filled with place holders and promises called reserve funds. You also stated that "...The proof will be in the pudding, as they say, on how Congress and the administration actually implement..." these placeholders. We couldn't agree more with the sentiment of your statement.

As you are aware, the reserve fund created by section 324 of the budget resolution would permit you to provide, in a deficit neutral manner, budget allocations that would complete the promise of concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees (S.546); eliminate the Widows Tax created by the offset between Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities and Veterans' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) (H.R.775/S.535); improve healthcare coverage for reserve component members (H.R. 972); and fund President Obama's initiative to provide concurrent receipt for disabled military retirees with less than 20 years service. Cutting waste, fraud and abuse amounting to 0.14 per cent of the spending allocated by the budget resolution would provide the necessary offsets to fund these priorities.

Therefore, we, the Republican signatories from the committees below, strongly encourage you to exercise your authority under section 324 to make concrete and real the promise of the reserve fund: to ensure America's military personnel and their families, military retirees, and veterans have the support they so richly deserve.

Sincerely,



Joe Wilson
Ranking Member Military Personnel Subcommittee
Committee on Armed Services



Steve Buyer
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Jeff Miller
John Rooney

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Bob By

John Fleming

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Mary Fallon

John Klein

Howard B. "Buck" Keon

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