Appropriations: Clear Differences
How 2 Months Spending In Iraq Could be Put to Better Use
Example 5: Law Enforcement
$1.8 billion = 5 Days in Iraq

WASHINGTON – As Congress waits for the President to send over the rest of his nearly $200 billion request covering the $10 billion a month we are spending in Iraq (paid for with borrowed money), he is trying to masquerade as fiscally responsible by manufacturing a fight over $22 billion (roughly 2 months in Iraq) in investments that will make this a stronger and better country.

What would that $22 billion achieve? Every day we're going to bring you one specific example of how Congress and the President differ on appropriations.

Example 5: Law Enforcement
$1.8 billion above the President's Request = The cost of 5 days in Iraq

After nearly a decade of declines, violent crime is up in our country the last two years in a row.

This increase follows five years of steady cuts to programs that fund state and local law enforcement agencies – including COPS, Justice Assistance, Juvenile Justice and Violence Against Women grants. From 2001 to 2006 funding for state and local law enforcement grants was **cut from $4.7 billion to $2.7 billion - 43%**. In January Democrats were able to restore some of these cuts in the joint funding resolution passed to finish up the bills Republicans left behind.

The President's Budget exacerbates the problem, once again proposing to cut these programs by over a billion dollars. That means fewer cops on the street and less support to local communities stretched thin trying to fight drugs and crime while meeting post 9/11 security needs.

The House Bill rejects those cuts, investing $1.8 billion above the President to proven programs that keep Americans safe – roughly the cost of 5 days in Iraq.

The differences couldn't be clearer.

View a fact sheet on the recent history of state and local law enforcement funding.

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