

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Yesterday, Democrat House and Senate conferees unanimously approved a fiscally irresponsible conference report for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 war supplemental that jeopardizes our troops in the field, emboldens insurgents and spends billions on non-emergency items. We strongly oppose this conference report and urge a NO vote when it comes to the House floor.

In his 2008 Budget request, the President asked Congress for a clean war supplemental to support our troops and provide the resources needed to continue to win the war against global terrorism. Such a measure could have been passed in a timely fashion and with bipartisan support. But instead, the \$124 billion conference report reflects the priorities of an out-of-touch Democrat Leadership and their “slow bleed,” and “victory through surrender” supporters.

In its current form, the Majority’s conference report ties the hands of the President and Commander-in-Chief during a time of war; lets politicians in Washington micromanage American military commanders in the field with arbitrary and unsound requirements; and cuts off funding for our deployed men and women supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. This is irresponsible, it is not what the American people want, and it is far less than our troops deserve.

Adding insult to injury, the bill also proposes more than \$20 billion in non-emergency spending that is completely unrelated to the troops or the war on terrorism. Rather, these funds are designed to buy votes, pay for items Democrats deliberately underfunded in the FY 2007 Omnibus CR, or to “pre-fund” additional non-emergency spending outside the regular FY 2008 appropriations process. For example:

- The report provides \$3.1 billion to pay for BRAC funding which the President requested last year as base funding but Democrats off-loaded to the supplemental;
- It relies on a phony rescission of highway contract authority;
- It declares funding for fisheries an emergency;
- It provides additional agricultural disaster aid to eligible producers who have already received assistance for these losses under existing mandatory 2002 farm bill programs.

Moreover, the bill includes authorization language to increase the minimum wage, provides small business tax breaks, and other initiatives such as the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. Whatever the merits of these proposals, they clearly have no place in a wartime emergency supplemental bill.


Given the spending binge Democrats have engaged in during the last 3 months, it is no wonder the House Democrat Budget Resolution assumes \$393 billion in new taxes on American families and small businesses, the largest tax increase in American history.

This conference report is bad policy during a time of war and makes a mockery of the budget process and Democrats' already weak commitment to fiscal discipline. Fortunately, the President has stated his intention to veto it. We strongly oppose this measure and urge a NO vote.

Sincerely,



Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations



Paul Ryan
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Budget