



John Spratt,
Chairman

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

207 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 226-7200 ★ www.budget.house.gov

March 31, 2009

Fact Sheets on the FY 2010 Budget Resolution H. Con. Res. 85

Contents

Top Reasons to Support the 2010 Budget.....	1
Economic Recovery	2
Health Care.....	3
Education.....	4
Energy Independence	5
Veterans	6
Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability.....	7



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Top Reasons to Support the 2010 Budget

Unlike the last Administration, which inherited a \$5.6 trillion surplus, this Administration inherited an economy in steep decline, a budget in record deficit, and faltering public services due to persistent underfunding and inattention. The Congress has already taken steps to create jobs and rebuild our economy by enacting the Recovery Act. Our budget is an economic blueprint for the future that builds from these initial steps by making strategic investments to rebuild our economy over the longer term – including investments in health care reform, education, and energy independence – and by putting the budget back on a path to fiscal sustainability.

Provides the Blueprint for Economic Strength — Our budget makes strategic investments in education, health care reform, and energy independence that are necessary to restore our crumbling economy and put the country in a position to remain globally competitive. It also takes the needed steps to put us back on a more fiscally responsible path by cutting the federal budget deficit by more than half by 2013. (See page 2 for more details.)

Supports Health Care Reform — The budget supports the President’s goals for health care reform that will lower costs, improve quality, and expand coverage to help the 46 million Americans who now lack health insurance. Like the President’s plan, the budget assumes health care reform will be paid for and leaves it to the relevant committees to determine the best way to accomplish it. (See page 3 for more details.)

Builds upon Education Investments Made in Recovery Act — The budget builds upon those investments with further support for early childhood education, high standards and the tools to achieve them for elementary and secondary school students, and efforts to help more Americans obtain a college degree. The budget accommodates the President’s proposals for new initiatives in early childhood education, effective approaches to making sure all children learn and achieve in school, and continuing to raise the maximum Pell grant award without adding to the budget’s bottom line. (See page 4 for more details.)

Invests in Energy Independence — Our budget builds on significant funding and tax incentives in the Recovery Act by increasing our investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency by some 18 percent for 2010. It also allows for fiscally responsible legislation that will promote energy independence over the long term. (See page 5 for more details.)

Honors our Veterans — The budget honors our veterans by providing \$53.3 billion in appropriated funding for veterans’ health care and other services, which is \$5.5 billion (11.5 percent) more than the 2009 level. (See page 6 for more details.)

Cuts the Deficit by more than Half — Our blueprint for the future cuts the deficit by more than half in four years, putting the budget on a fiscally sustainable path needed for future economic strength. This budget is in contrast to the historic budget deficit that President Obama and the 111th Congress inherited – a deficit of well over \$1 trillion in 2009. (See page 7 for more details.)



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Economic Recovery

The Obama Administration inherited a deficit of well over \$1 trillion and the worst economic down-turn since the Great Depression. Our budget builds off the President's plan, putting forward a blueprint for the future that responds to the fiscal crisis.

Reflects the Recovery Act — Our budget plan reflects the Recovery Act, including its provisions that provide tax relief to middle-income families, create jobs through investments in infrastructure and other key areas, and extend unemployment benefits for millions of Americans. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the Recovery Act will create up to 3.6 million jobs and will raise GDP by 1.1 percent and 3.4 percent. CBO also estimates that these actions will help end the recession in the fall of 2009.

Provides the Blueprint for Our Future Economic Strength — The budget makes strategic investments in education, health care reform, and energy independence that are necessary to restore our crumbling economy and put the country in a position to remain globally competitive. It also takes the needed steps to restore fiscal sustainability after the economy has rebounded, cutting the federal budget deficit by more than half by 2013.

Begins to Reverse Bush Administration's Failed Economic Policy — Eight years of Republican policies have produced a drumbeat of economic woes:

- 25 straight months of housing price declines;
- 14 months of job losses and 4.4 million jobs lost, the most since World War II, with 651,000 jobs lost in February alone;
- Unemployment soaring to 8.1 percent; and
- 45 percent drop in major stock markets from their highs.

Begins to Address Inherited Deficits of over \$1 Trillion — The Obama Administration inherited an economy deep in recession and a projected annual deficit of well over \$1 trillion. This deficit didn't arise out of the blue: President Bush inherited a \$5.6 trillion projected 10-year budget surplus which he dissipated on misguided fiscal choices. That surplus represented an opportunity to address some of the major issues facing our country, including preparing for the needs of the retiring baby-boom generation.

The Republican Plan Would Blow a Hole in the Deficit and Increase Debt — The Tax Policy Center estimates that a tax reform like last year's Ryan Roadmap could cost \$5 trillion to \$6 trillion over ten years. Among other policies that look similar to the Bush agenda that failed so miserably, the Ryan Roadmap would raise taxes on four-fifths of Americans while slashing taxes for the wealthy. Citizens for Tax Justice estimates the bottom 80 percent of tax filers by income would see a tax hike between \$1,000 and \$1,400 dollars while the top 1 percent of filers would see an average tax cut of \$195,000.



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2010 Budget Invests in Health Care

Our budget accommodates legislation to improve quality, expand coverage, and address rising costs that put so much budget pressure on families, businesses, and the federal budget.

Supports the President's Goals for Health Reform — The President's principles for health reform include making health coverage affordable and available to all, improving safety and quality, and providing Americans with a choice of health plans and physicians, including the choice of keeping their current health plan.

- ***Begins to Address Rising Costs*** — The average cost of an employer-sponsored family health insurance policy exceeded \$12,000 in 2008, more than twice what it cost ten years ago. Insurance premiums have grown faster than wages, resulting in less take-home pay for workers. The President's principles include reducing high administrative costs and other inefficiencies that lead to higher costs with no added health benefits.
- ***Sets Us on a Path to Increase Coverage*** — The number of people without insurance grew from 38 million in 2000 to nearly 46 million in 2008 – nearly 1 out of 6 Americans. Most uninsured are in working families. Millions more are underinsured, with just bare-bones coverage that leaves them exposed to significant financial hardship if they get sick.
- ***Aims to Improve Quality of Care*** — One study found that only 55 percent of recommended care is actually delivered. More than 1 million Americans are injured or killed each year by prescription drug errors. Cost and quality are closely related. There is evidence that as much as 30 percent of U.S. public and private health spending – about \$700 billion a year – is not producing better health.

Assumes Health Reform Will Be Paid for so that it Does Not Add to the Deficit — Our budget leaves it to the authorizing committees to determine both the policy and how to pay for health care reform.

Supports Improvements to Medicare's Payment System for Doctors — The budget supports legislation on Medicare physician payments to provide incentives for efficiency and higher quality care, promote fiscal sustainability, ensure that primary care receives appropriate compensation, and improve coordination of care.

Republicans Have No Real Plan for Addressing Rising Health Cost — The Republican plan for health care, including Medicare, is to give everyone a voucher, deregulate the insurance market, and say, "you're on your own." Anyone who has ever had health problems and has tried to get insurance on the individual market, or who has known anyone with these experiences, knows that such a plan is destined to fail. Loosening the rules on insurance companies would lead to a race to the bottom that would undermine care for millions of Americans. It would also lead to skyrocketing administrative costs and paperwork.



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2010 Budget Resolution Invests in Education

Our budget is an economic blueprint for our future that accommodates the President's investments in education from early childhood through post-secondary education and training. It supports the President's goal of improving American education and training a workforce that is prepared to compete and succeed in the global economy.

Builds on Recovery Act's Historic Investment in Education — Our budget includes the \$100 billion in education funding provided in the Recovery Act to help states maintain elementary, secondary, and higher education services. The Recovery Act targeted funds to Title I (Education for the Disadvantaged), Head Start, and special education, where the funding can be used to train more teachers to provide needed services in the future. In addition, Congress this year increased the maximum Pell Grant award by \$619 to a total of \$5,350 – the largest annual increase in the program's history – and created the American Opportunity Tax Credit to give eligible students a partially refundable tax credit of up to \$2,500 to cover college costs.

Makes College More Affordable and Accessible — Our budget embraces the President's goal of further investments in educating Americans from early childhood through post-secondary education and training. It accommodates the President's proposal to continue raising the maximum Pell grant award in a fiscally responsible way, and to provide additional assistance to help more low-income high school graduates attend and complete college.

Increases Education Funding — The budget matches the President's increase in education funding for targeted services that will raise student achievement using both proven practices and innovative approaches that bring more of the community into cooperative efforts to educate our children.

Supports Early Childhood Education — Our budget supports education at a young age through a range of approaches, including the President's initiatives to help strengthen and expand early childhood education programs, and paid-for increases in a new evidence-based home visiting services and child nutrition that includes school meals.

Supports Improved School Breakfast and Lunch Programs — Our budget includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund and assumes increased funding in order to reauthorize, expand, and improve the child nutrition programs. This reserve fund provides for improvements to meal quality and access in the school lunch and school breakfast programs, which serve nutritious meals to over 31 million children every year.

Republican Plan Could Eviscerate Education — The recent Republican plan (the "Road to Recovery") makes absolutely no mention of education – no plan to invest in higher education, job training, or even the vital services that put our children on the path to lifelong learning and success. This follows last year's Republican plan (the "Roadmap to America's Future"), which also made no mention of improving education; instead, it laid out steps to automatically cut spending across the board if government outlays exceeded a certain target. These cuts could easily fall on education as well as other critical governmental services such as health care and law enforcement.



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2010 Budget Invests in Energy Independence

The budget builds on significant funding and tax incentives in the Recovery Act by increasing our investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency by some 18 percent for 2010. These investments will spur new sources of energy that we can produce here, creating new “green collar” jobs for American workers. It also allows for fiscally responsible legislation that will promote energy independence over the longer term.

Builds on Investments in the Recovery Act — The budget reflects the energy investments in the Recovery Act that total \$39 billion in funding and \$20 billion in tax incentives to spur the development and production of new energy and jobs. These investments include:

- modernizing the electricity grid to make it more efficient, secure and reliable;
- loans for renewable energy power generation;
- increasing the energy efficiency of federal buildings; and
- helping make state and local governments more energy efficient.

Provides an 18 Percent Increase for Energy Programs — The resolution increases appropriations for energy programs by \$1.0 billion (18.4 percent) above the 2009 level of regular appropriations. These funds for renewable energy, energy efficiency, research, and technological development are in addition to the funding and tax incentives for energy investment provided in the Recovery Act.

Accommodates Legislation Promoting Energy Independence — Our budget includes a reserve fund that accommodates fiscally responsible legislation to promote energy independence – including to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help businesses, industries, states, communities, and households adjust to an economy with reduced emissions levels.

Years of Missed Opportunities under Republican Rule — Most of the last eight years were marked by missed opportunities under the Bush Administration. Their failure to make bold investments in renewable energy and more efficient technology has left us dangerously dependent on foreign oil, which continues to leave our economy and American families vulnerable.



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2010 Budget Honors Our Veterans

Our budget honors our veterans by providing an 11.5 percent increase for veterans' health care and other services.

Honors our Veterans by Providing an 11.5 Percent Funding Increase — The budget resolution builds on the President's request by providing \$53.3 billion in appropriated funding for veterans' programs, which is \$5.5 billion (11.5 percent) more than the 2009 level. It supports the President's budget by ending the Bush Administration's ban on enrolling modest-income veterans for VA health care. It also provides more funding than 2009 for VA to research and treat mental health, post-traumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injury.

Affirms VA's Current Billing Policy — Our budget assumes VA's current policy of paying for the treatment of veterans' service-connected conditions and billing private insurance companies only for treatment of non-service-connected conditions.

Under Republican Rule Veterans' Programs Were Squeezed — The previous Administration and House Republicans proposed increasing fees on veterans, placed a ban on enrolling new Priority 8 veterans for VA-provided health care, and proposed inadequate budgets that squeezed veterans programs. For example, President Bush's final budget cut veterans' funding by nearly \$20 billion over five years.



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Restores Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability

The budget resolution begins the process of turning around the Republican budget legacy of deep deficits, mounting debt, and economic decline due to the Bush Administration's reckless fiscal policy. It takes steps to put the budget back on a fiscally sustainable path by restoring fiscal responsibility and cutting the deficit by more than half by 2013.

Cuts the Deficit by More than Half — The President set a firm goal of cutting the budget deficit in half over four years, and this budget does just that. It takes the record deficit that President Obama and the 111th Congress inherited in 2009, and cuts the deficit from \$1.7 trillion in 2009 to \$586 billion in 2013.

Invests to Build a Stronger Economy Without Increasing the Deficit — Our budget makes strategic investments in health care, education, and energy, areas critical to a strong economic future. For these and other key priorities, it includes deficit-neutral reserve funds that will accommodate legislation in these areas consistent with the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) principle.

Improves Fiscal Discipline through Statutory PAYGO — The budget improves fiscal discipline by requiring House passage of statutory PAYGO as a condition for making current policy adjustments to the baseline for tax cuts and the Medicare physician payment system. Statutory PAYGO was critical to turning the budgets around in the 1990s, but the Republican Congress and the Bush Administration allowed it to expire in 2002, contributing to the deep deficits they accumulated. As one of its first acts, the 110th Congress instituted a tough new House PAYGO rule. The resolution would reaffirm and strengthen the commitment to PAYGO by providing for action on statutory PAYGO to enforce a realistic baseline.

Includes Investments in Oversight and Enforcement Yielding Valuable Savings — Our budget generates valuable savings by expanding oversight activities in large benefit programs, more aggressively pursuing fraud, and increasing tax compliance and enforcement activities to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

Makes More Realistic Deficit Estimates — To provide for a more realistic accounting of the government's financial position, our budget – like the President's plan – includes likely foreseeable costs that have been omitted from past budgets. These include costs of our overseas deployments, Medicare reimbursements to physicians, and emergencies such as natural disasters that can't be predicted with precision, but that occur every year.