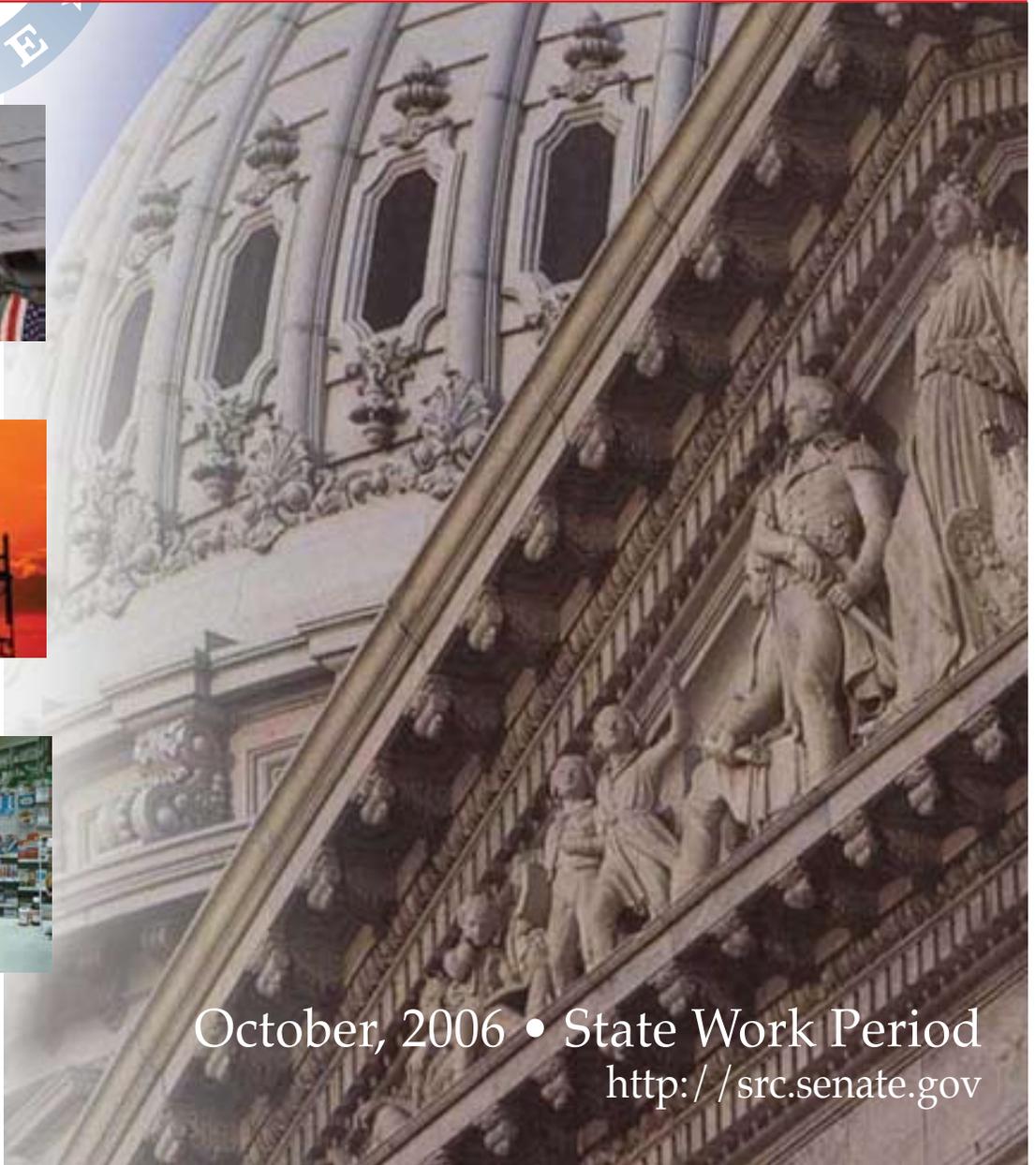




109th Congress

Securing America's Future



October, 2006 • State Work Period
<http://src.senate.gov>



SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Rick Santorum, Chairman

Kay Bailey Hutchison, Vice Chairman

<http://gop.senate.gov>



SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Rick Santorum, Chairman
Kay Bailey Hutchison, Vice Chairman



109th Congress

September 29, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

During the October recess period, we have the opportunity to highlight our accomplishments in the Senate and our continued dedication to Securing America's Future. We recently marked the five-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country. In the five years since the attacks, Congress and the President have taken great strides to make America safer.

With the passage of the Defense Appropriations Act, Homeland Security Appropriations Act, and Reauthorization of the Patriot Act, Senate Republicans have demonstrated their commitment to defending America. Senate Republicans have worked to advance legislation that strengthens our borders through the Secure Fence Act. We continue to be dedicated to securing the homeland by securing our borders and ports, completing the mission in Iraq, and hunting down terrorists around the world.

Senate Republicans also remain committed to Securing America's Prosperity. Republican pro-growth tax relief policies have fueled nearly five years of overall economic growth. More Americans are working today than ever before, wages continue to raise, gas prices have fallen, and federal tax revenues are surging, producing faster-than-expected deficit reduction progress. While the economy is making progress, we can still do more to help American families. Senate Democrats recently obstructed efforts to permanently repeal the estate tax, raise the minimum wage, and protect America's families and businesses, but Senate Republicans will continue to stand for the economic security of America's families.

Our nation shares values that have defined the American character, helped those in need, protected our families, and shaped our society. As Republicans, we are committed to upholding these values by promoting renewal in our nation's cities and neighborhoods; protecting access to medical care, supporting the hard work of mothers and fathers; ensuring a safe and quality education for all Americans; protecting families; and upholding the rule of law. While Democrats have obstructed legislation that protects our nation's values, such as the Child Custody Protection Act, Republicans in the Senate continue to work to empower families, protect children, and support those most vulnerable in our communities.

Please continue to support the vision and accomplishments of our Conference by supporting our positive agenda to Secure America's Future.

Thank you.

A blue ink signature of Rick Santorum.

Rick Santorum
Chairman

A blue ink signature of Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Kay Bailey Hutchison
Vice-Chair

109th Senate Accomplishments (Selected)

Securing America's Homeland

- ✓ PATRIOT Act
- ✓ Border Security (14,555 agents, 23,500 beds)
- ✓ Port Security
- ✓ Committee on Foreign Investment Reform (CFIUS)
- ✓ Department of Defense Appropriations Act

Securing America's Prosperity (5.7 million jobs)

– TAXES & BUDGET –

- ✓ Pension Protection Act of 2006
- ✓ Cut Taxes (\$70 billion)
- ✓ Cut Entitlement Growth (\$100 billion / 10 years)
- ✓ Froze Non-Defense, Non-Homeland Security Spending

– ENERGY –

- ✓ Comprehensive Energy Bill (alternative sources)
- ✓ Gulf of Mexico Energy Security

– EDUCATION –

- ✓ SMART (Pell) Grants: Math and science competitiveness

– LAWSUIT ABUSE REFORM –

- ✓ Class action reform
- ✓ Bankruptcy reform
- ✓ Gun liability reform

– INFRASTRUCTURE –

- ✓ Highways
- ✓ Water Resources Development Act

Securing America's Health

- ✓ Combat Methamphetamine
- ✓ Adult Stem Cell Therapy (Cord Blood, Alternative Stem Cell bill)
- ✓ Combating Autism Act of 2006
- ✓ Health Information Technology (electronic medical record)
- ✓ Bioterror and pandemic preparedness

Securing America's Values

– JUDGES –

- ✓ Supreme Court: Roberts and Alito
- ✓ 95% of all Federal judgeships filled (highest in 20 years)

– FAMILIES –

- ✓ Broadcast Decency
- ✓ Fetal Farming Prohibition
- ✓ Child Predator (Adam Walsh Child Safety)
- ✓ Child Custody

– SOUND GOVERNMENT –

- ✓ Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006
- ✓ Voting Rights Act
- ✓ Lobbying and Earmark reform

Securing America's Future



109th Senate Accomplishments: Securing America's Homeland



The biggest issue facing our country and our children's future is a war. Not, as so many describe it, the War on Terror. Not the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. But the world war, which at its heart is just like the previous three global struggles.

We have mobilized to win other world wars. We fought against European tyrants and their allies, from the Kaiser to Hitler to Lenin, Stalin, and their heirs. We fought them because we knew that our survival was a stake. The tyrants would never stop attacking until they had defeated us, or we had defeated them.

Our enemy today is doing his utmost to kill us, because of who we are, wherever we are, at home or overseas. That is why we will do whatever we can – including diplomatic, intelligence, financial, and law enforcement activities – to protect the homeland, disrupt terrorist operations, and deprive our enemies of what they need to operate and survive.

- \$74.6 billion in FY 2006 emergency funding for troops fighting the war, border security, and hurricane recovery
- PATRIOT Act reauthorization (prevention of future terrorist attacks)
- \$453.28 billion in FY 2006 war funding
- \$82.57 billion for FY 2006 military construction and Veterans Affairs
- \$31.86 billion for FY 2006 homeland security, including increased funding for border security
- Service members life insurance (ensuring that military survivors are cared for)
- \$82.04 billion for ongoing military operations, postwar construction efforts (FY 2005)
- Defense authorization for programs in FY 2007, including \$50.0 billion for ongoing military operations
- Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act (protects dignity and honor at funeral services)
- Port Security (CFIUS Reform)
- North Korea Nonproliferation Act
- Military Commissions Act (terrorist tribunals)
- Secure Fence Act (border control)
- Iran Freedom and Support Act (sanctions & public diplomacy)
- Defense Authorization Conference Report (\$463 billion)
- Homeland Security Appropriations (border & ports)

109th Senate Accomplishments: Securing America's Prosperity



Jobs/Economy:

- More than 5.7 million new jobs since August 2003 and a low 4.7% unemployment rate
- 19 consecutive quarters of economic (GDP) growth
- Tax increase prevention, \$70 billion in extended tax relief
- Froze non-defense, non-homeland security spending (2007 Budget Resolution)
- Cut entitlement spending growth, saves \$100 billion over 10 years (Deficit Reduction Act)
- Lawsuit abuse reform for class action and gun liability
- Bankruptcy reform protection for small businesses and lower costs for consumers
- Retirement security for American workers (Pension Protection Act)
- Free trade agreements with Central America and Bahrain
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act

Energy/Conservation:

- Comprehensive Energy Bill (alternative energy sources, greater efficiency/conservation)
- American oil and natural gas exploration (Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act)

Health Care:

- Pandemic flu preparedness
- Adult stem cell therapy (cord blood)
- Fetus farming prohibition
- Alternative stem cell therapy
- Veterans medical services
- Patient safety/preventing medical errors
- Health information technology (electronic medical records)
- Genetic information nondiscrimination
- Combat methamphetamine

Education:

- SMART (Pell) grants
- SAFE schools (FBI background checks)
- Teacher incentive fund (raising student achievement)
- Perkins loan reauthorization (career and tech programs)
- Workforce Investment Act (high-skill job training/competitiveness)



109TH SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ***SECURING AMERICA'S VALUES***

SIGNED INTO LAW

BROADCAST DECENCY ENFORCEMENT ACT—P.L. 109-235

This law reflects the Senate's commitment to protecting children and families from being exposed to offensive material, and encourages media outlets to provide additional family-tiered programming by increasing penalties for transmission of obscene or indecent material and profane language for television and radio broadcasters.

CORD BLOOD

STEM CELL THERAPEUTIC AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2005—P.L. 109-129

Research has demonstrated that cord-blood stem cells can be effectively used to treat several diseases, including leukemia, Fanconi anemia, and sickle cell disease. This law provides for the collection of human umbilical cord blood to be used for treatment, transplant, and research. Additionally, an advisory council will be created to coordinate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that donated cord blood not appropriate for transplant use will be made available for use in peer-reviewed research. The collection and use of umbilical-cord-blood stem cells after child birth causes no harm to mother or child.

FETAL FARMING

FETUS FARMING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2006—P.L. 109-242

This Act amends the Public Health Service Act to prohibit any person or entity involved in interstate commerce from soliciting or knowingly acquiring, receiving, or accepting a donation of a human fetus that was deliberately provided for such donation; or accepting tissue or cells obtained from a human embryo or fetus that was gestated in the uterus of a nonhuman animal.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION OF 2005—P.L. 109-164

This law reflects America's commitment to fighting human trafficking, a crime in which human beings, including children, are essentially bought and sold as slaves. This bill will assist authorities in investigating and prosecuting traffickers and customers, provide grants to state and local law enforcement, and provide services to victims.

MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF

TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005 (TAX RECONCILIATION)—P.L. 109-222

Marriage is one of the leading anti-poverty strategies, and married couples cannot afford the painful backdoor tax increase imposed when they file a joint tax return. This law prevents a scheduled tax increase by extending the tax relief provisions until 2010 to protect families from significant tax increases.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005 (TAX RECONCILIATION)—P.L. 109-222

The Child Tax Credit is an important tax credit that families may claim on their federal tax returns. For many American families, this child tax credit will lower the amount of taxes given to the federal government, ensuring that more money stays in the pockets of the American people. This law limits the tax burden on families with children by extending tax breaks to families through 2010.

HEALTHY MARRIAGE & RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT—P.L. 109-171

The DRA provides grants including \$100 million annually for the promotion of healthy marriage initiatives, and \$50 million annually for responsible fatherhood programs to strengthen two-parent marriages, reduce poverty, and improve child well-being.

ADAM WALSH CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY ACT OF 2006—P.L. 109-248

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act expands the national sex offender registry by integrating the information in state sex offender registry systems and ensuring that law enforcement has access to the same information across the United States. This law also strengthens federal penalties for crimes against children by imposing tough mandatory minimum penalties for the most serious crimes such as sex trafficking of children and prostitution. This law also makes it harder for sex predators to reach children on the internet and creates a new national child abuse registry and ensures a safe learning environment for children through background checks.

CHARITABLE INCENTIVES/CARE ACT

PENSIONS PROTECTION ACT OF 2006—P.L. 109-280

The Pensions Protection Act incorporates eleven provisions from S.1780, the CARE Act, including: incentives for individuals to give tax-free contributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts for charitable purposes; incentives for businesses and farmers to donate an estimated \$250 million in food donations in the next 2 years; incentives for charitable giving for conservation purposes; incentives for S Corporations to give for charitable purposes; charitable donations of inventories to public schools.

Source: Senate Republican Conference, Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman (R-PA)

PASSED SENATE

JUDGES

The 109th Congress has ensured fair, up-or-down votes and confirmed nominations for Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., and Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. Senate Republicans have also confirmed 14 Judges to the Court of Appeals and 34 Judges to the District Court. The vacancy rate in the federal courts is now just 4.9 percent, lower than it has been in more than 20 years.

CAMRA ACT—S. 1902

The Children and Media Research Advancement Act (CAMRA) establishes a research program on children and media within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which will work in coordination with the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It directs CDC to contract with the National Academy of Science to review, synthesize and report on existing research on children and media and to set research priorities which take into consideration their findings. The CDC will then issue grants over a period of six years to researchers to examine the impact of media, both positive and negative, on children and adolescents' ability to learn and their cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and behavioral development. (Passed Senate September 13, 2006 by Unanimous Consent).

OBSTRUCTED

CHILD CUSTODY—S. 430

The Child Custody Protection Act (CCPA) changes no state laws, but will ensure that statutes requiring parental notification or consent in a child's abortion are honored. The legislation does exempt parental involvement if the girl's life is in danger and for other extreme circumstances. It also creates a new federal crime if someone who has committed incest with a minor takes her across the state line for an abortion. The bill makes it a federal crime to circumvent state parental involvement laws by taking a minor across state lines for an abortion. (Passed Senate, Obstructed by Democrats from going to Conference).

THE ALTERNATIVE PLURIPOTENT STEM CELL THERAPIES ENHANCEMENT ACT, S. 2754

This Act amends the Public Health Service Act to require the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct and support basic and applied research to develop techniques for the isolation, derivation, production, or testing of stem cells that have pluripotent or embryonic-like qualities.

Recognizing that supporters of the bill come from varying perspectives on the legitimacy of embryonic stem cell research, the bill contains a rule of construction saying that nothing in this bill shall be construed to affect any policy, guideline, or regulation regarding embryonic stem cell research, human cloning by somatic cell nuclear transfer, or any other research not specifically authorized.

The bill also directs the NIH to provide guidance on this research, including prioritizing research with the greatest potential for near-term clinical benefit; determining the extent to which specific techniques

Source: Senate Republican Conference, Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman (R-PA)

may require additional basic or animal research to ensure that any research involving human cells is consistent with the purpose of the bill; and taking into account the techniques outlined by the President's Council on Bioethics and any other techniques and research.

Despite the unanimous support from Democrats in the Senate, House Democrats came together to vote against this bill.

DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE, S.J. RES. 1

As the core social institution of our society, marriage in the United States should be defined as it has been in every civilization around the world for thousands of years: marriage is the union between a man and a woman. The definition of marriage is far too important to leave open to interpretation by unelected activist courts. In response to recent efforts by activist judges to experiment with this vital social institution Senate Republicans put forward an amendment to the Constitution defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman and leaving all other questions of partnership, civil unions or contractual relationships to state legislatures.

FLAG AMENDMENT, S.J. RES. 12

Senate Democrats obstructed passage of the Flag Protection Amendment by a vote of 66-34, at a time when the men and women of our armed forces are bravely fighting for freedom. In 1989 the United States Supreme Court 'discovered' a constitutional 'right' to burn the American flag in the case of *Texas v. Johnson*—overturning 200 years of precedent. The amendment simply gives congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. The flag is not only the physical symbol of our nation, but also of our nation's values.

Source: Senate Republican Conference, Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman (R-PA)

Democrats Obstruct...



National & Homeland Security

Democrats have argued among themselves about how fast to cut and run from the battlefield in the War on Islamic Fascism and fought to block tools necessary to defend freedom abroad and defend our nation here at home.

- **Democrats urge retreat** from Iraq, the central front in the War on Islamic Fascism.
- **Democrats blocked** reauthorization of the Patriot Act for months. Harry Reid boasted: “We killed the Patriot Act!”
- **Democrats block** nominees to critical national security positions, including U.N. Ambassador John Bolton, Department of Defense and Intelligence officials.
- **Democrats block** expediting our national missile defense system, attempting to CUT funding by \$50 billion this year while threats from Iran and North Korea rise.
- **Democrats block** the NSA Terrorist Surveillance programs that are crucial to stopping future attacks, denouncing this life-saving program in their “Real Security Act.”
- **Democrats attempted to block** the Port Security bill by tying it up with political amendments.

Democrats Obstruct...

Energy



Democrats have raised the cost of living for American families by blocking energy solutions and hiking taxes.

- **Democrats attempt to raise taxes** 7.5 cents on each gallon of gasoline in 1993.
- **Democrats successfully raise taxes** 4.3 cents on each gallon of gasoline in 1993.
- **Democrats block** President Bush's comprehensive national energy policy for 4 years.
- **Democrats block** increasing American oil supply by opening ANWR, voting against the measure 8 times over 15 years while gas prices steadily climbed.
- **Democrats block** expanding American refining capacity.
- **Democrats block** streamlining American boutique fuel bureaucracy that needlessly drives up the cost of gas.
- **Democrats block** environmentally friendly American deep sea energy exploration, which would lower the price at the pump and the cost of home heating and cooling.
- **Democrats block** environmentally friendly American nuclear energy.

Democrats Obstruct...

Jobs & Economy



Tax & Spend Democrats block tax relief for American families, oppose securing retirement for our seniors, and support policies that will kill American jobs.

- **Democrats blocked** the Family Prosperity Act which included permanent death tax relief, extension of expiring tax provisions, and a minimum wage increase of more than 40 percent.
- **Democrats block** saving Social Security for America's seniors, and voted to continue raiding Social Security's trust fund to pay for wasteful spending.
- **Democrats opposed** the Deficit Reduction Act that eliminates wasteful spending and will save taxpayers \$100 billion over the next 10 years.
- **Democrats oppose** Fair Trade agreements that create American jobs, help American businesses compete on a level playing field in the global economy, and lower costs to American consumers.
- **Democrats block** the line item veto which would give the President leverage to cut wasteful programs while government spending continues to increase and drain our economy of capital that can be used to create jobs and increase wages.

Democrats Obstruct...

Health



Democrats have raised the cost of living for Americans by blocking commonsense health care solutions for small businesses and families, while opposing prescription drug coverage for seniors.

- **Democrats block** small businesses from pooling together to purchase health insurance for American workers at lower costs.
- **Democrats oppose** the successful Medicare prescription drug program that is lowering costs for tens of millions of American seniors.
- **Democrats block** medical liability reform to stop frivolous lawsuits that are raising the cost of health care.

Democrats Obstruct...

Education



Democrats block education reforms that will improve our children's future. Democrats would rather cater to liberal teacher association donors than provide our children with the best training and skills to compete in today's economy.

- **Democrats block** empowering parents to choose the best schools for their children.
- **Democrats block** expanding charter schools that specialize in preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow.
- **Democrats block** accountability and competition in public schools to ensure our children are receiving the best education.
- **Democrats block** the Higher Education Reauthorization that would lower costs, raise standards and increase access to college education.

Securing America's Future



Republicans are creating a prosperous and secure future by:

- ⇒ Securing our homeland,
- ⇒ Securing our prosperity, and
- ⇒ Securing our values.

Securing America's Future



Securing America's Homeland

We continue to fight to strengthen our ports and borders, complete the mission in Iraq, and hunt down radical Islamic terrorists around the world.

Securing America's Prosperity

Republican tax cuts have strengthened the economy with over 5.7 million new jobs and consistent growth, yet we can do more to reduce the cost of living and increase wages.

Securing America's Values

Republicans are committed to protecting America's shared values by fostering a culture of life, protecting children, and upholding the rule of law.

Securing America's Future



Securing America's Homeland

- There have been no terrorist attacks on American soil since 9/11. Action by President Bush and the Republican Congress, including the renewal of the Patriot Act, through the effective use of military, intelligence and law enforcement resources, has led to the capture of many of al Qaeda's top leaders and substantially degraded the capability of the worldwide network of radical Islamic terrorists.
- *Sadly, Democrats lack the vision to understand we are in a global war against radical Islamic terrorists or the resolve to win it. Instead, Democrats joined President Clinton in decimating our intelligence abilities, and have applauded as liberal newspapers exposed national security secrets.*
- However, Republicans understand we must complete the mission in Iraq with victory and honor and hunt down radical Islamic terrorists around the world. We must use every tool available to defeat terrorists and bring them to justice, strengthen border security, enforce our immigration laws with worker verification, and secure our ports with worker background checks.

Securing America's Future



Securing America's Prosperity

- While the economy is getting stronger, with 5.7 million new jobs and consistent growth, we need to do more to reduce the cost of living and improve the quality of life for all Americans. Republicans have passed a national energy policy and fought for deep sea American energy exploration that will increase America's oil and natural gas supply and lower energy costs.
- *Unfortunately, Democrats have raised the cost of living by blocking commonsense health care and energy solutions while promising to raise taxes.*
- Republicans believe we must pass small business health plans to make health insurance more affordable; stop Democrat tax increases and balance the budget in 5 years; lower gas prices by decreasing dependence on foreign oil and develop alternative energy sources; trim government waste by passing the line item veto; and raise income levels for every American by creating the best educated and trained workforce in the world.

Securing America's Future



Securing America's Values

- Our nation shares values that have defined the American character, protected our families, and shaped our society. Republicans have upheld their commitment to these values by fighting for legislation to protect child custody, creating and enforcing a national sex offenders registry, and standing strong to confirm many highly qualified judges.
- *However, Democrats oppose preserving a clear definition of marriage, are blocking child custody protections, and have obstructed the confirmation of fair judges.*
- Republicans are committed to protecting these traditional values by fostering a culture of life, protecting children, banning internet gambling and upholding the rule of law.

Republicans creating a prosperous and secure future:

America is Winning the War on Terror

- No attacks on American soil since 9/11.
- NIE: “United States-led counterterrorism efforts have seriously damaged the leadership of al-Qa’ida and disrupted its operations.”
- Terrorists cannot defeat us militarily; they can only hope we give up the battle.
- Republicans have secured the tools necessary to defeat terrorists: Patriot Act, Military Commissions.

Real Progress in Securing our Borders First

- Illegal border crossings are down 20% this year.
- Border Patrol apprehending nearly 1 million illegal immigrants per year since 9/11.

American Economy is Booming

- Over 5.7 million new jobs.
- Consistent GDP growth.
- Historically low unemployment.
- Federal Deficit is rapidly shrinking.

GOP Energy Policy Helping Reduce Cost of Living

- Gas prices are declining.
- Alternative fuels, such as ethanol and hydrogen, are creating a new hope for energy independence.

Commonsense Judges Confirmed

- GOP Senate confirmed Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito.

Talking Points

Response to GAO report and Republican Accomplishments

- It is not surprising that a month removed from the mid-term elections, our Democratic colleagues are levying accusations against the Republican-led Congress that it has failed to hold the Bush Administration accountable on a host of issues.
- Democrats are claiming that a newly-released GAO report is evidence that 1) the Bush VA misled or lied to Congress about its FY05 and FY06 budgets; 2) the Republican-led Congress has trouble holding the administration accountable for mistakes; and 3) care for veterans, particularly veterans returning from combat, was jeopardized as a consequence.
- The GAO report confirms the problems VA encountered in the formulation and execution of its budgets for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 that ultimately led to the Administration asking for supplemental funding of \$3 billion.
- These problems were identified last year during Committee hearings in both the Senate and the House. Very little of what GAO found is new information.
- More importantly, VA's comments on GAO's report show that it had already implemented nearly all of the GAO's report recommendations so that the same mistakes would not be made in VA's FY07 budget submission last February.
- Solutions to a problem were identified and implemented long ago. Republicans did not need to wait for GAO to study the issue. We took action.
- Also, based on what we learned during our oversight hearings, the Republican Congress required VA to submit quarterly reports on its budget execution. We have received three such reports this year.
- VA officials make themselves available to Members or staff, Republicans and Democrats, for briefings on the report contents and any other questions that might be asked. There is a degree of transparency in VA's budget execution now that is unprecedented.
- Anyone interested in learning the facts about how the Bush VA is holding itself accountable for performance need not look far.
- VA's budget documents contain a host of performance measures that show a degree of institutional accountability that is the envy of other government agencies and roundly praised by independent observers.
- Here are a few performance measures that show the improvements made during the Bush years that has impacted the lives of veterans:

- 1) The percentage of patients who report being seen within 20 minutes of scheduled appointments at VA health care facilities has improved from 65% in 2002, to 73% through the end of last year.
 - 2) The percentage of primary care appointments scheduled within 30 days of the desired date has improved from 89% in 2002, to 96% through the end of last year.
 - 3) The percentage of specialty care appointments scheduled within 30 days of the desired date has improved from 86% in 2002, to 93% through last year.
 - 4) The number of veterans VA treats in non-institutional long-term care settings has increased by 50% since 2002.
- And the list goes on, and on, and on....
 - In 2004, the Rand Corporation examined why VA patients get better chronic, preventive care than similar U.S. adults. Rand concluded that VA's edge is "linked to improved information technology, tracking of performance, and accountability."
 - As for the accusations from Democrats that the administration is allowing care to veterans to deteriorate, let's look at recent media coverage of the Bush VA:
 - 1) Washington Monthly, hardly a friendly critic of President Bush, had this caption on its cover in January of 2005 referring to the Bush VA: "Best Care Anywhere".
 - 2) Time Magazine had this as a headline story one month ago: "How VA Hospitals Became the Best: No longer a nation's shame, veteran care is acing competitors."
 - 3) And Business Week ran this story just three months ago: "The Best Medical Care in the U.S.: How Veterans Affairs transformed itself -- and what it means for the rest of us."
 - What about other accomplishments on behalf of veterans that President Bush signed into law? Let me list a few:
 - With enactment of the FY07 budget, VA's health care budget will have increased by 70 percent under President Bush.
 - The GI Bill education benefit for veterans has been boosted by 65%, raising the lifetime benefit from \$23,400 to \$38,700.
 - A new education program was created for members of the Guard and Reserve activated after September 11, 2001, providing up to \$30,960 in lifetime benefits.
 - The education benefit for survivors and dependents of veterans has been increased by 46%.
 - The maximum VA home loan guarantee has been increased by 107%.
 - The largest expansion of the national cemetery system since the Civil War is currently underway.

- Historic legislation was enacted to permit certain disabled veterans to receive their disability and military retirement benefits concurrently.
- Comprehensive legislation was enacted to update and strengthen civil protections available to members of the Armed Forces.
- Comprehensive legislation was enacted to improve job training and placement services for veterans.
- A new insurance program was created to provide immediate payments of between \$25,000 and \$100,000 to servicemembers who have been traumatically injured since the beginning of the War on Terror. 2,700 injured veterans have benefited so far.
- Legislation was enacted to increase Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) maximum coverage from \$250,000 to \$400,000 and the DoD-provided death gratuity from \$12,420 to \$100,000. In addition, retroactive payments of \$238,000 were sent to survivors of all servicemembers who died on active duty since the start of the War on Terror.
- Now that is a record of accomplishment that I think this Congress and the American public can be proud of.
- We will continue to work through the challenge of providing timely, high quality care for our veterans, with an emphasis on combat wounded veterans of the War on Terror.
- Republicans will embrace solutions to problems that go beyond the reflexive response that many Democrats put forward as a cure all: "more money...more money....more money."

War on Islamic Fascism



Major Homeland Security/Defense Accomplishments of the U.S. Senate During the 109th Congress, To Date

DEFENDING AMERICA AND SECURING THE HOMELAND

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 – P.L. 109-234

This law provides \$74.6 billion to meet the needs of troops overseas fighting the Global War on Terror; pandemic flu preparation, increased border security, levee repair and flood control projects, without exceeding the President's requested funding level [Note: the law also provided hurricane-relief funding, which is addressed separately]

USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act – P.L. 109-177

This law permanently renews 14 provisions of the USA Patriot Act and temporarily extends two provisions previously set to expire. This renewal is essential to prevent future terrorist attacks by providing law enforcement and intelligence agencies with the tools necessary to detect, apprehend, and prosecute terrorists and criminals.

Department of Defense Appropriations, FY 2006 – P.L. 109-148

This law provides \$453.28 billion in new obligational authority for the Department of Defense for FY 2006. This Act provides \$50.0 billion in supplemental funds for the Global War on Terror, fully funds key readiness programs critical to the Global War on Terrorism, and also provides funding for a 3.1-percent across-the-board pay raise for military personnel. This law also establishes uniform standards for interrogation and prohibits cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of individuals under the control of the Department of Defense.

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations, FY 2006 – P.L. 109-114

This law provides \$82.57 billion in new budget authority for FY 2006, including funding for military construction for the active and reserve component accounts; family housing construction and improvement, operations and maintenance; and the base realignment and closure account (BRAC). It also provides \$70.25 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which includes \$23.55 billion for medical services to provide care for veterans whose service has kept all Americans safe.

Reducing the Number of Alien Absconders (Provision included in the Conference Report to Accompany the Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations, FY 2006) – P.L. 109-108

This provision directs the Departments of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to work together to study existing apprehension, detention, appeal, and removal policies of illegal aliens and to supply a report to Congress of effective means of reducing the absconder rate.

Automated Biometric Identification System/Fingerprint Identification System (Provision included in the Conference Report to Accompany the Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations, FY 2006) – P.L. 109-108

This provision directs the Department of Justice to update Congress on its efforts to fully integrate the databases at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with regard to fingerprint scans at U.S. ports of entry. The use of biometric identifiers such as fingerprints is an important tool to ensure that terrorists or criminals monitored by the FBI or DHS are identified and stopped before they are able to enter the country.

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, FY 2006 – P.L. 109-90

This law provides \$31.86 billion in new budget authority for the Department of Homeland Security. Significant initiatives include the following: increasing funding for border security to provide an additional 1,000 border patrol agents, expanding Border Patrol Stations, and improving customs and border protection; implementing proactive steps to combat the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction; preventing terrorist attacks in the U.S through risk assessment and improving intelligence gathering; and improve security and readiness programs to respond to both natural and manmade crises through emergency planning.

Service Members Group Life Insurance Act of 2005 – P.L. 109-80

This law allows for an increase in the maximum life insurance coverage allowed for an insured veteran or service member from \$250,000 to \$400,000. It also directs the Secretary of Defense to make a good faith effort to inform the spouse of an active duty service member if the member chooses to reduce coverage or designate another person as beneficiary of benefit. This law affirms the Senate's commitment to ensuring that military survivors are cared for after their loved ones make the greatest sacrifice for our country and our freedom.

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, FY 2005 – P.L. 109-13

This law provides \$82.04 billion for ongoing military operations, postwar reconstruction and relief in Iraq and Afghanistan, aid for international partners in the war on terrorism, and homeland security needs. It includes \$907.3 million in relief for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami, including \$656 million for the Recovery and Reconstruction Fund.

Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act of 2006 (S. 3322) – Passed Senate

This bill would help to reduce the burden on the branches of the Armed services by providing for the creation of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, which would work with the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to create an effective civilian response to carry out reconstruction and stabilization activities in regions around the globe affected by conflict or civil strife.

Defense Authorization Bill (S. 2766) – Passed Senate

This bill would authorize defense programs in FY 2007 including an additional \$50.0 billion supplemental for the ongoing military operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and operations in the global war on terrorism. The bill would also authorize an across-the-board military pay raise of 2.2 percent and targeted pay raises for mid-career and senior enlisted personnel and warrant officers.

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Reauthorization (S. 188) – Passed Senate

This bill reauthorizes the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). SCAAP provides financial assistance to states and local governments with authority over correctional facilities that incarcerate or detain undocumented criminal aliens. This bill reflects Republicans' commitment to provide the necessary federal support to keep our homeland safe.

Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act – P.L. 109-228

This law ensures that America's fallen heroes will receive the level of dignity and honor befitting their service to our country during their funeral services. This law would restrict protests at funeral services conducted on grounds controlled by the National Cemetery Administration or at Arlington National Cemetery and prohibit distracting protests within 500 feet of a cemetery at which a funeral or memorial service is to be held, for a period beginning 60 minutes before and ending 60 minutes after the service. The law also imposes penalties for violating this law.

Topline Message Points on Border Security



Senate Republicans worked to put legislation on the President's desk this fall to secure our borders.

- In the post 9/11 world we live in, our national security depends on our border security.
- We need to know who is coming into our country, where they are from, and what they are doing here.
- The "Secure Fence Act of 2006" will authorize the construction of physical barriers and deploys state-of-the-art technology to secure our borders.
- Together with the increased appropriations for border security, the "Secure Fence Act" will have a significant impact on our homeland security now and is a necessary step toward fixing the problem of illegal immigration.

Senate Republicans acted to secure the border with more patrol agents, more enforcement, more fencing, and more technology.

- Over the past two years, we have made significant progress in strengthening the security of our nation, focusing on the greatest threats we face, including increasing border security.
- With the anticipated passage of the Fiscal Year 2007 Homeland Security and Department of Defense Appropriations bills, major accomplishments over the past two years (FY05 supplemental-FY07 Senate bill) include:
- We are acting to secure the border with more border patrol agents, more enforcement, more fencing, and more technology.
 - Adding 5,100 border and detention agents
 - Adding 370 miles of fence and 460 miles of vehicle barriers
 - Increasing resources for detection of nuclear and radiological threats

Senate Republicans are serious about stopping the flow of illegal immigrants over the border.

- The construction of more fencing and vehicle barriers will greatly enhance border enforcement and it will pay for itself many, many times over.
- A border fence, combined with National Guard forces, increased border patrol agents and more bed space for arrested illegal aliens, will help us reach a tipping point where the scales tip from illegality to legality.

- If we continue to send signals like this, that the open border days are over, people will know that it makes more sense to apply and come into our country legally, according to our laws, rather than trying to come in illegally.

Senate Republicans recognize that securing our borders is and must be our first priority.

- Without properly securing our borders, we remain vulnerable to those who may enter our country undetected – criminals, terrorists, and other individuals who may mean harm to Americans.
- Since 9/11, we have seen border patrol apprehension of nearly 1 million aliens per year with a 20% decrease in illegal border crossings in 2006.

Republicans are leading the fight to secure America's homeland by securing our borders and ports first.

Securing Our Nation: Protecting Our Future

HIGHLIGHTS

Over the last two years alone, we have significantly increased funding and resources to prevent acts of terrorism and to secure our borders. Specifically, we have provided significant increases to protect our borders, our seas and our ports by:

1. INCREASING FUNDING FOR **BORDER, MARITIME, AND PORT SECURITY** BY 20%
2. ADDING OVER 5,300 **BORDER AND DETENTION AGENTS**, A 34% INCREASE
3. INCREASING **DETENTION BEDS** (KEY COMPONENT TO STOPPING CATCH AND RELEASE) BY 50% FOR A TOTAL OF 27,500 BEDS
4. ADDING \$1.5 BILLION FOR **BORDER SECURITY FENCING**, INCLUDING VEHICLE BARRIERS, CAMERAS AND OTHER TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY CRITICAL TO MAINTAINING A VIRTUAL FENCE
5. STRENGTHENING THE **CAPABILITIES OF THE COAST GUARD** TO MEET PORT AND MARITIME SECURITY MISSIONS BY PURCHASING AND REFURBISHING OVER 100 BOATS, PLANES AND HELICOPTERS
6. DOUBLING THE NUMBER OF **FOREIGN PORT ASSESSMENTS** ANNUALLY AND CONDUCTING THE FIRST **UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS OF DOMESTIC PORTS**
7. PROVIDING OVER THREE QUARTERS OF A BILLION DOLLARS TO DETECT **NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL THREATS**
8. ENHANCING **SECURITY AT CHEMICAL FACILITIES**- HIGH-RISK CHEMICAL FACILITIES WILL NOW BE REQUIRED TO CONDUCT RISK ASSESSMENTS AND ADDRESS THEIR SECURITY VULNERABILITIES

Securing Our Nation

Over the past two years, we have made significant progress in strengthening the security of our nation, focusing on the greatest threats we face: *Increasing Border Security, Preventing and Preparing for Weapons of Mass Destruction, and Improving Intelligence Capabilities*. With the passage of the Fiscal Year 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, major accomplishments over the past two years (FY05 supplemental-FY07 Conference Report) include:

FUNDING INCREASES

- Increasing funding by \$5.3 billion for Border, Port and Maritime security
- Spending a total of \$32 billion on Border, Port and Maritime security.

BORDER, PORT AND MARITIME SECURITY

- Adding 4,000 new Border Patrol Agents for a total of 14,819
- Adding 9,150 new Detention Beds for a total of 27,500
- Adding \$1.5 billion for Border Security Fencing, Infrastructure and Technology, which includes building fences and vehicle barriers along the Southwest border
- Adding 1,373 Detention Personnel for a total of more than 5,500
- Adding 526 new Customs and Border Protection officers for port of entry inspections for a total 18,387 CBP officers
- Adding \$232 million for Customs and Border Protection air fleet re-capitalization, including: \$70 million for extending the life of the P-3 surveillance aircraft; \$64 million for 2 medium lift helicopters; \$58 million for 2 multi-role patrol aircraft; \$20 million for unmanned aerial vehicles; and \$20 million for light enforcement helicopters
- Providing \$16.3 billion for the Coast Guard, including adding \$7.6 billion for border security operations and \$2.1 billion for Deepwater asset acquisitions
- Providing \$1.45 billion for Coast Guard ship, aircraft and helicopter recapitalization, including: new and rehabilitated ships and aircraft, including \$782 million to complete 4 National Security Cutters, \$127 million to purchase 5 replacement patrol boats; \$70 million to rehabilitate 11 medium endurance cutters; \$215 million for 5 maritime patrol aircraft; \$164 million to re-engine 95 helicopters and \$94 million to arm 78 helicopters

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

- Providing \$797 million for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office to detect nuclear, and radiological threats within the U.S.
- Of that total, \$303 million is for Radiation Portal Monitors to be located throughout the U.S. and overseas for use in cargo inspection

INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY

- Adding \$553 million for DHS Analysis and Operations, including intelligence activities
- Funding a \$1,000,000 study on the feasibility of establishing a Counter Terrorism Intelligence Agency
- Supporting a new Chief Intelligence Officer at DHS
- Supporting a DHS Intelligence Council to integrate intelligence across the Department

Majority Message



Ignoring Republican Oversight Efforts, Democrats Take Their Election-Year Show On The Road

“Using The Democratic Policy Committee To Make Political Points Is Nothing New For Senate Democrats.” (Emily Pierce, “DPC Hearings Aim to Keep War In Spotlight,” *Roll Call*, 9/21/06)

Only Last Year, Sens. Reid And Dorgan Conveniently Expanded The DPC’s Mission To Include “Oversight Investigations.” “At the start of the 109th Congress, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid and DPC Chairman Byron Dorgan expanded the mission of the DPC to include two new functions: 1) conduct oversight investigations and hold public hearings to ensure accountability in government...” (DPC Website, democrats.senate.gov/dpc, Accessed 9/20/06)

- **January 2005 Report: Reid And Dorgan Vowed To Use DPC To “Bird-Dog” The Administration.** “Although the committee cannot subpoena witnesses, federal law does allow it to hold hearings and call witnesses. Reid and Dorgan have vowed to use those investigative powers during the 109th session to bird-dog the Bush administration.” (“Senate Democrats To Challenge Bush Promotional Efforts,” National Journal’s *CongressDaily*, 1/11/05)

Now Democrats Are Preparing To Go On The Road With Their Taxpayer-Funded Campaign Events. “Citing a recent poll showing that Americans are dissatisfied with how little oversight of the war the Congress has carried out, Senate Democratic Policy Committee Chairman Byron Dorgan (N.D.) announced Wednesday that he would begin a series of hearings on Monday.” (Emily Pierce, “DPC Hearings Aim to Keep War in Spotlight,” *Roll Call*, 9/21/06)

Democrats Claim Their Election-Year “Oversight” Efforts “Will Not Be Partisan.” “The new oversight effort will not be partisan in nature. Instead, it represents a serious effort to carry out a bipartisan inquiry on the conduct of the war...” (Senate Democratic Policy Committee, Press Release, 9/20/06)

Anonymous Democrat Aide: Party Wants To Keep Up “Drumbeat” Of Media Coverage Until The Election. Democrats hope their hearings “will fill a news vacuum for policy stories and help Democrats gain momentum before voters go to the polls. ‘There’s an opportunity to keep the drumbeat up in October,’ said one Senate Democratic aide.” (Emily Pierce, “DPC Hearings Aim to Keep War In Spotlight,” *Roll Call*, 9/21/06)

Reid Falsely Claims Congress Has “Not Held One Hearing” Overseeing The War In Iraq

Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.): “Here we are with six days left in the 109th Congress, and the Republicans, which control the House and the Senate and the White House, have not held one hearing, not one, into the President’s wartime failures.” (Sen. Harry Reid, *Congressional Record*, 9/18/06)

Reid: “Isn’t it interesting that this war that we’re now engaged, which has lasted as long as World War II in Europe lasted, not a single oversight hearing, none.” (Sen. Harry Reid, Press Conference, 9/19/06)

The Senate Has Conducted Numerous Hearings On Iraq And Related Issues Since 2003

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearings:

- UN Weapons Inspector's Report, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 1/30/2003)
- Post-Saddam Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/11/2003)
- Afghanistan and the War on Terror, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/12/2003)
- Post-Conflict Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/26/2003)
- Aid to Turkey and Issues in Northern Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/5/2003)
- Reconstruction of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/11/2003)
- Political Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/13/2003)
- Diplomacy and the War on Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/18/2003)
- An Enlarged NATO: Moving Forward on Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/29/2003)
- Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/22/2003)
- Repercussions of Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction Policies, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/12/2003)
- Status and Prospects for Iraq Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 7/23/2003)
- Review of Iraq Policy and Issues, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/23/2003)
- Review of Iraq Policy and Issues Updated, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/24/2003)
- Security and Democracy in Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 10/16/2003)
- Afghanistan Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 1/27/2004)
- Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/9/2004)
- Effect of Madrid Attacks on U.S. European Cooperation, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/31/2004)
- Iraq's Transition to Sovereignty, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/20/2004)
- Iraq's Transition to Sovereignty, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/21/2004)
- Iraq's Transition to Sovereignty, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/22/2004)
- Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/12/2004)
- Iraq: The Way Ahead, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/18/2004)
- Iraq: The Way Ahead, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/19/2004)
- Post-Transition Situation in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 7/22/2004)
- Accelerating U.S. Assistance to Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/15/2004)
- Reshaping U.S. Policy in Iraq and Middle East, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 2/1/2005)
- Iran: Weapons Proliferation, Terrorism and Democracy, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 5/19/2005)
- Iraq Ambassador Nomination, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 6/7/2005)
- The Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/18/2005)
- The Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/19/2005)
- The Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/20/2005)
- Iraq and U.S. Foreign Policy, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 10/19/2005)
- Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 2/8/2006)
- Iraq Update, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/13/2006)

Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings:

- Post-Conflict Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/26/2003)
- NATO Enlargement Post-Conflict Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/10/2003)
- U.S. Policy and Military Operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/23/2003)
- Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/6/2003)
- Lessons Learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 7/9/2003)
- Military Operations Briefing, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/3/2003)
- Iraq Briefing, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/11/2003)
- Operations and Reconstruction in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/25/2003)
- Report on Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 10/3/2003)
- Iraq Stabilization Report, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/30/2004)
- U.S. Policy and Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/20/2004)
- \$25 Billion Iraq Contingency Fund, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/13/2004)
- Treatment of Iraqi Prisoners, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/19/2004)
- Iraq Multi-National Force Commander Nomination, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/24/2004)
- Transition to Sovereignty in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/25/2004)
- Military Operations In Iraq and Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 2/3/2005)
- Iraq Issues, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 6/23/2005)
- The War on Terror, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 6/30/2005)
- Operations and Strategy In Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 9/29/2005)
- Defense Authorization: Contracting Issues in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 2/7/2006)
- Iraq, Afghanistan and the Global War on Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 8/3/2006)

Senate Homeland Security And Governmental Affairs Committee Hearings:

- Consolidating Intelligence Analysis, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/26/2003)
- Combating Terrorist Financing, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/23/2003)
- Terrorism Financing, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/15/2004)
- 9/11 Commission Report, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 8/26/2004)
- Improving Ability of Intelligence Community to Fight Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/8/2004)
- Contracting and Procurement In Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 8/2/2006)

Senate Judiciary Committee Hearings:

- War Against Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/4/2003)
- Terrorism in the United States, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/26/2003)
- Law Enforcement and Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 7/23/2003)
- Terrorism in the Post 9-11 Era, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/10/2003)
- Recruitment of Terrorists in Prisons and the Military, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 10/14/2003)
- Efforts to Prevent Terrorism in the United States, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 10/21/2003)
- Seaport Security Since 9-11, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 1/27/2004)
- Cyberterrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/24/2004)
- Preventing and Responding to Acts of Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/14/2004)
- Bioterrorism Detection and Response, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/11/2004)
- Department of Justice: Terrorism Oversight, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/8/2004)
- Terrorism Oversight: Department of Homeland Security, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/9/2004)
- Tools To Fight Terrorism Act, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/13/2004)
- Patriot Act Reauthorization: Section 805, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 4/20/2005)
- Intelligence Information Sharing, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 9/21/2005)
- Saudi Arabia and the War on Terror, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 11/8/2005)

Senate Banking, Housing And Urban Affairs Committee:

- Financial Reconstruction in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/16/2003)
- Prevention of Terrorist Financing, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/25/2003)
- Economic and Financial Reconstruction in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/11/2004)
- Terrorist Financing and Counterterrorism Initiatives, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/29/2004)
- Terrorism Risk Insurance, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/18/2004)
- Terror Financing and Money Laundering, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/28/2004)
- Terror Financing in the Middle East, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/13/2005)

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The Rest Of The Story:

The NIE Reflects Previous Statements About The War On Terror

Impact Of Iraq

Declassified Key Judgments Of The National Intelligence Estimate (NIE): "We Assess That The Iraq Jihad Is Shaping A New Generation Of Terrorist Leaders And Operatives; Perceived Jihadist Success There Would Inspire More Fighters To Continue The Struggle Elsewhere." (Office Of The Director Of National Intelligence, "Declassified Key Judgments Of The National Intelligence Estimate 'Trends In Global Terrorism: Implications For The United States' Dated April 2006," Released 9/26/06)

- **President Bush: "Al Qaeda And Other Extremists From Across The World Have Come To Iraq To Stop The Rise Of A Free Society In The Heart Of The Middle East."** (President Bush, Address To The Nation, Washington, DC, 9/11/06)
- **President Bush: Terrorists Consider Iraq "The Central Battlefield" In The War On Terror.** "But they've made clear that the most important front in their struggle against America is Iraq – the nation bin Laden has declared the 'capital of the Caliphate.' Hear the words of bin Laden: 'I now address... the whole... Islamic nation: Listen and understand... The most... serious issue today for the whole world is this Third World War... [that] is raging in [Iraq].' He calls it 'a war of destiny between infidelity and Islam.' He says, 'The whole world is watching this war,' and that it will end in 'victory and glory or misery and humiliation.' For al Qaeda, Iraq is not a distraction from their war on America – it is the central battlefield where the outcome of this struggle will be decided." (President Bush, Remarks, Washington, DC, 9/5/06)
- **President Bush: "If We Give Up The Fight In The Streets Of Baghdad, We Will Face The Terrorists In The Streets Of Our Own Cities."** (President Bush, Remarks, Salt Lake City, UT, 8/31/06)
- **White House National Strategy For Combating Terrorism (NSCT): "The Ongoing Fight For Freedom In Iraq Has Been Twisted By Terrorist Propaganda As A Rallying Cry."** (The White House, "National Strategy For Combating Terrorism," September 2006, Available At: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nsct/2006/>)

Adaptation Of The Global Jihadist Movement

NIE: "We Also Assess That The Global Jihadist Movement ... Is Spreading And Adapting To Counterterrorism Efforts."

- **President Bush: "As Al Qaeda Changes, The Broader Terrorist Movement Is Also Changing, Becoming More Dispersed And Self-Directed."** (President Bush, Remarks, Washington, DC, 9/5/06)
- **NSCT: "The Enemy We Face Today In The War On Terror Is Not The Same Enemy We Faced On September 11."** NSCT: "Our effective counterterrorist efforts, in part, have forced the terrorists to evolve and modify their ways of doing business. Our understanding of the enemy has evolved as well."

Threat From Self-Radicalized Cells

NIE: "We Assess That The Operational Threat From Self-Radicalized Cells Will Grow In Importance To US Counterterrorism Efforts, Particularly Abroad But Also In The Homeland."

- **President Bush: "More And More, We're Facing Threats From Locally Established Terrorist Cells That Are Inspired By Al Qaeda's Ideology And Goals, But Do Not Necessarily Have Direct Links To Al Qaeda, Such As Training And Funding."** "Some of these groups are made up of 'homegrown' terrorists, militant extremists who were born and educated in Western nations, were indoctrinated by radical Islamists or attracted to their ideology, and joined the violent extremist cause. These locally established cells appear to be responsible for a number of attacks and plots, including those in Madrid, and Canada, and other countries across the world." (President Bush, Remarks, Washington, DC, 9/5/06)

Decentralization Of The Global Jihadist Movement

NIE: "We Assess That The Global Jihadist Movement Is Decentralized, Lacks A Coherent Global Strategy, And Is Becoming More Diffuse." "New jihadist networks and cells, with anti-American agendas, are increasingly likely to emerge. The confluence of shared purpose and dispersed actors will make it harder to find and undermine jihadist groups."

- **NSCT: "Terrorist Networks Today Are More Dispersed And Less Centralized."** "They are more reliant on smaller cells inspired by a common ideology and less directed by a central command structure."
- **NSCT: "Today, The Principal Terrorist Enemy Confronting The United States Is A Transnational Movement Of Extremist Organizations, Networks, And Individuals – And Their State And Non-State Supporters – Which Have In Common That They Exploit Islam And Use Terrorism For Ideological Ends."**

Underlying Factors Of The Global Jihadist Movement

NIE: "We Assess That The Underlying Factors Fueling The Spread Of The Movement Outweigh Its Vulnerabilities And Are Likely To Do So For The Duration Of The Timeframe Of This Estimate."

- **President Bush: "In The Early Days After 9/11, I Told The American People That This Would Be A Long War – A War That Would Look Different From Others We Have Fought, With Difficulties And Setbacks Along The Way. The Past Five Years Have Proven That To Be True."** (President Bush, Remarks, 9/7/06)
- **President Bush: Our Previous Strategy Of "Pursuing Stability To Promote Peace [In The Middle East] ... Left Us With Neither."** "So we changed our policies, and committed America's influence in the world to advancing freedom and democracy as the great alternatives to repression and radicalism." (President Bush, Address To The Nation, Washington, DC, 9/11/06)

Threat From Al-Qaeda

NIE: "United States-Led Counterterrorism Efforts Have Seriously Damaged The Leadership Of Al-Qaeda And Disrupted Its Operations; However, We Judge That Al-Qaeda Will Continue To Pose The Greatest Threat To The Homeland And US Interests Abroad By A Single Terrorist Organization."

- **President Bush: We Have "Damaged The Leadership Of Al-Qaeda And Disrupted Its Operations ... Yet Al Qaeda Remains Dangerous And Determined."** (President Bush, Remarks, Washington, DC, 9/5/06)
- **President Bush: "Today, We Are Safer, But We Are Not Yet Safe."** (President Bush, Address To The Nation, Washington, DC, 9/11/06)
- **NSCT: "... Al Qaida Functions As The Movement's Vanguard And Remains Along With Its Affiliate Groups And Those Inspired By Them, The Most Dangerous Present Manifestation Of The Enemy ..."**

Dangers Posed By Al-Qaeda Affiliates

NIE: "We Assess That [Other Affiliated Sunni Extremist Organizations] Pose Less Of A Danger To The Homeland Than Does Al-Qaeda But Will Pose Varying Degrees Of Threat To Our Allies And To US Interests Abroad."

- **President Bush: We Are Facing Threats "Posed By Different Strains Of Violent Islamic Radicalism."** (President Bush, Remarks, Washington, DC, 9/5/06)
- **"9/11 Five Years Later: Successes And Challenges":** "Unlike conventional enemies, terrorists do not fight on a defined battlefield. They are found throughout the world, even in countries that are friendly to us." (The White House, "9/11 Five Years Later: Successes And Challenges," September 2006, Available At: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/waronterror/2006/waronterror0906.pdf/>)

Tactics Of Jihadist Groups

NIE: "We Judge That Most Jihadist Groups – Both Well-Known And Newly Formed – Will Use Improvised Explosive Devices And Suicide Attacks Focused Primarily On Soft Targets To Implement Their Asymmetric Warfare Strategy, And That They Will Attempt To Conduct Sustained Terrorist Attacks In Urban Environments." "Fighters with experience in Iraq are a potential source of leadership for jihadists pursuing these tactics."

- **President Bush: "These Terrorists Know They Cannot Defeat Us Militarily – So They Have Turned To The Weapon Of Fear. And One Of The Most Brutal Weapons At Their Disposal Are Improvised Explosive Devices, Or IEDs."** "In 2004, the administration spent \$150 million to fight the IED threat. This year, we're providing \$3.3 billion to support our efforts to defeat IEDs." (President Bush, Remarks, 3/13/06)
- **NSCT: "They Use Suicide Bombings, Beheadings, And Other Atrocities Against Innocent People As A Means To Promote Their Creed."**

Use Of The Internet

NIE: "We Judge That Groups Of All Stripes Will Increasingly Use The Internet To Communicate, Propagandize, Recruit, Train, And Obtain Logistical And Financial Support."

- **President Bush: "Increasingly, Al Qaeda Is Taking Advantage Of The Internet To Disseminate Propaganda, And To Conduct 'Virtual Recruitment' And 'Virtual Training' Of New Terrorists."**
(President Bush, Remarks, Washington, DC, 9/5/06)
- **NSCT: "Increasingly Sophisticated Use Of The Internet And Media Has Enabled Our Terrorist Enemies To Communicate, Recruit, Train, Rally Support, Proselytize, And Spread Their Propaganda Without Risking Personal Contact."**

Bringing Terrorists To Justice

Today, The President Announced That Khalid Sheikh Mohammed ("KSM"), Abu Zubaydah, Ramzi Bin Al Shibh, And 11 Other Terrorists In CIA Custody Have Been Transferred To The Custody Of The Department Of Defense, At The U.S. Naval Base At Guantanamo Bay. More information on the individuals transferred to Guantanamo is available at <http://www.odni.gov/announcements/content/DetaineeBiographies.pdf>.

These Men Have Provided Valuable Information That Has Saved Innocent Lives In The United States And Around The World. In addition to terrorists held at Guantanamo, a small number of suspected terrorist leaders and operatives captured during the war have been held and questioned outside the U.S., in a separate program operated by the CIA. The detainees recently transferred to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay were previously held and questioned by the CIA. The CIA program focused on a number of suspected terrorist leaders and operatives – dangerous men with unparalleled knowledge about terrorist networks and plans for new attacks.

The CIA Program Has Been, And Remains, One Of The Most Vital Tools In Our War Against The Terrorists.

Questioning of detainees in the program has given us information that has saved innocent lives by helping us to stop new attacks in America and abroad.

Information From Detainees Questioned In This Program Has Helped Unravel Plots And Terrorist Cells

According To Our Intelligence Community, The Program Has Produced Information That Has Saved Lives. Some Examples Include The Following:

- **Abu Zubaydah Told Us That Al Qaida Operatives Were Planning To Launch An Attack Inside The United States.** Based on information he provided, the operatives were detained, one while traveling to the U.S. Zubaydah also disclosed that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed ("KSM") was the mastermind behind the September 11 attacks.
- **Information Provided By Zubaydah Also Helped Lead To The Capture Of Ramzi Bin Al Shibh, One Of KSM's Accomplices In 9/11.** Together, these two terrorists provided information that helped in the planning and execution of the operation that captured KSM.
- **KSM Provided Information That Led Us To The Capture Of A Terrorist Operative Named Zubair, Who Provided Information That Helped Lead To The Capture Of Hambali – The Leader Of Al Qaida's Southeast Asian Affiliate Known As JI (Jamal Islamia).** After Hambali's arrest, KSM was questioned again, and he identified Hambali's brother as the leader of a JI cell, and Hambali's conduit for communications with al Qaida. Hambali's brother was soon captured, and he in turn led us to a cell of 17 Southeast Asian JI operatives. When confronted with the news that his terror cell had been broken up, Hambali admitted that the operatives were being groomed at KSM's request for attacks inside the U.S., possibly using airplanes.
- **KSM Also Told Us Many Details Of Other Plots To Kill Innocent Americans And Provided Vital Information On Al Qaida's Efforts To Obtain Biological Weapons For Terrorist Attacks.** He described the design of planned attacks on buildings inside the U.S. and how operatives were directed to carry them out. He told us the operatives had been instructed to ensure the explosions went off at a point that was high enough to prevent the people trapped above from escaping out of the windows.

Suspected Terrorists In The CIA Program Have Provided Everything From Initial Leads To Photo Identifications To Precise Locations Of Where Terrorists Were Hiding – Helping Us Take Potential Mass Murderers Off The Streets Before They Were Able To Kill Or Kill Again. Detainees in this program have helped us identify individuals that al Qaida deemed suitable for Western operations, including terrorists sent to case targets inside the U.S. Detainees in this program have identified al Qaida travel routes and safe havens, and explained how al Qaida's senior leadership communicates with its

operatives in Iraq. They have identified voices in recordings of intercepted calls and helped us understand the meaning of potentially critical terrorist communications.

Legislation Authorizing The Creation Of Military Commissions To Try These Suspected Terrorists For War Crimes

Today, The President Sent Legislation To Congress To Specifically Authorize The Creation Of Military Commissions To Try These Suspected Terrorists For War Crimes. The Bill ensures that these commissions are established in a way that protects our national security and ensures a full and fair trial for the accused. As soon as Congress acts to authorize the military commissions the President proposed, the men our intelligence officials believe orchestrated the deaths of nearly 3,000 Americans on September 11, 2001, can face justice. We will also seek to prosecute those believed to be responsible for the attack on the USS Cole – and an operative believed to be involved in the bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

The Legislation Also Includes Vital Provisions To Preserve Our Ability To Question Key Terrorist Leaders And Operatives. We will continue to hunt down terrorist leaders and operatives. And as more high-ranking terrorists are captured, the CIA program will be crucial to obtaining the life-saving information they can provide.

- **The Supreme Court's Recent Determination That Common Article Three (CA3) Of The Geneva Conventions Applies To The War With Al Qaida Put In Question The Future Of The CIA Program.** CA3 prohibits "outrages upon personal dignity" and "humiliating and degrading treatment." These and other provisions are vague and undefined and could be interpreted in different ways by American and foreign judges.
- **We Owe Our Military And Intelligence Personnel Involved In Capturing And Questioning Terrorists Clear Rules So They Can Continue To Do Their Jobs And Protect Our People.** We are asking Congress to pass legislation that will clarify the rules for our personnel fighting the war on terror. We need to ensure that those questioning the terrorists can continue to do everything within the limits of the law to get information that can save American lives.

Passing This Legislation Is A Top Priority, And We Will Work With Congress To Act Quickly To Strengthen And Clarify Our Laws To Meet The Threats Of A New Era. We will ensure that the CIA program goes forward in a way that follows the law, meets the national security needs of our country, and protects the brave men and women we ask to obtain information that will save innocent lives.