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Congress Completes Action on Budget Cuts **Mandatory Programs Cut by \$39 Billion Over 5 Years**

On February 1st, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the final version of the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA), the FY 2006 budget reconciliation bill that cuts mandatory programs by \$39 billion over 5 years. The budget agreement includes cuts to Medicaid, foster care, and child support enforcement. In addition, the agreement includes stricter TANF requirements for states to fulfill, but inadequate TANF and child care funding to support the new rules. Details on the budget cuts and TANF reauthorization are available in the January 2006 [Prevention Advocate](#). The final vote tally was an extremely close 216 to 214, with all Democrats, 13 Republicans, and the lone Independent voting against the bill (see how your Representative voted at: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2006/roll004.xml>). President Bush signed the bill into law on February 8, 2006.¹

Advocates should be given credit for the hundreds of e-mails and thousands of calls made to members of Congress throughout the budget reconciliation debate. Because of your efforts, the final vote was much closer than predicted when the reconciliation rules first passed last spring. But even more significant than that, you sent a strong message to Congress that people are paying attention to their actions. This should provide leverage in the FY 2007 federal budget debate.

Next Steps:

If your Representative voted against the bill, please be sure to thank him or her. Special thanks are due to the 13 Republicans (listed below) who bucked their leadership by voting against these cuts. If, on the other hand, your Representative voted for the bill, please let him or her know that you are disappointed with their vote. Knowing of your opposition to the cuts, and of your awareness that they are in part responsible for the cuts, may shape their positions in future budget debates.

Republicans Who Voted Against the Budget Cuts:

Rep. Gerlach (R-PA-6)	Rep. McHugh (R-NY-23)	Rep. Wilson (R-NM-1)
Rep. Johnson (R-IL-15)	Rep. Ney (R-OH-18)	Rep. Simmons (R-CT-2)
Rep. Jones (R-NC-3)	Rep. Paul (R-TX-14)	Rep. Smith (R-NJ-4)
Rep. LaTourette (R-OH-14)	Rep. Ramstad (R-MN-3)	Rep. Sweeney (R-NY-20)
Rep. Leach (R-IA-2)		

¹ In what the press has dubbed "Typogate," a typo in the House-passed bill means that the House and Senate did not pass identical bills, as required by the Constitution. As of this writing, it is unclear what, if any, action will have to take place to rectify this issue.



President Requests More Cuts in FY 2007

On February 6th, President Bush submitted his FY 2007 budget request to Congress, marking the official beginning of the FY 2007 federal budget season. As they did last year, the Administration proposes significant cuts to non-defense/homeland security discretionary and mandatory funding. The overall budget proposal cuts \$15 billion from FY 2007 discretionary spending by reducing or eliminating funding for 141 programs, including a number of programs that serve children and families (see section below on early childhood programs eliminated).

The President also proposes new cuts to mandatory programs such as Medicare and Medicaid totaling over \$65 billion over 5 years. In total, the President's budget request cuts non-defense programs outside of homeland security by \$187 billion over 5 years.² In addition to the budget cuts, the President's request includes \$285 billion in tax cuts over 5 years. The funding and tax cut requests now move to Congress for consideration.

What is the President's Budget Request?

Every year, the President submits to Congress the *Budget of the United States Government*, detailing the Administration's tax and spending priorities for the next fiscal year. This document does not carry the weight of law, but is still a potent political document providing the first concrete indication of the policy battles to expect in the year to come. By law, the President must submit the budget no later than the first Monday in February. You can find all White House documents related to the FY 2007 budget online at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2007/>.

Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle anticipate difficulties producing deep budget cuts for a number of reasons, not the least of which being that 2006 is an election year. Advocates put members of Congress on notice last year with their strong, unified, and very vocal opposition to the budget reconciliation cuts. Members know that their constituents may not want to hear about more budget cuts. Also, members of Congress, particularly those in competitive races, will want to spend as much time in their districts as possible, and will press to wrap up business on Capitol Hill by early fall.

High (and Low) lights of FY 2007 Funding Request for Children and Family Programs:

Key Programs Eliminated or Cut:

SSBG cut by \$500 million: The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is a capped entitlement that funds a range of social services for children, families, the elderly, and the disabled, and makes up 12% of all federal child welfare spending. Services funded include child abuse prevention, foster care, in-home services, and adoption services. According to the latest available data, in FY 2003, 39 states used more than \$217 million in SSBG funding to protect children from abuse and neglect. SSBG funding is authorized at \$1.7 billion a year. The President's budget proposes to fund SSBG at \$1.2 billion in FY 2007, a \$500 million cut.

Early Childhood Programs Eliminated: The President's FY 2007 budget request eliminates funding for a number of early childhood programs including: Even Start; Parent Information Resource Centers (PIRCs); and Foundations for Learning. Even Start funding for FY 2006 is \$100 million; PIRCs are currently funded at \$40 million, and Foundations for Learning is currently funded at \$1 million.

² *The President's Budget: A Preliminary Analysis*, the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities, Retrieved online <http://www.cbpp.org/2-6-06bud.htm> on February 10, 2006.



Community Services Block Grant Eliminated: CSBG provides grants to local programs designed to alleviate poverty by helping poor people obtain the resources and skills necessary to become economically independent. The President has repeatedly eliminated funding for CSBG in his annual budget requests, though Congress has funded it anyway. CSBG is currently funded at \$630 million.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program Eliminated: In an average month, CSFP provides food packages to more than 400,000 low-income elderly people, pregnant and post-partum women, infants, and children. Many of these women and children are not eligible for WIC, and those who are will add to the demand for WIC without any allowances being made to increase WIC funding. CSFP is currently funded at \$111 million.

Key Programs Level-Funded³

CAPTA: In FY 2006, Congress level-funded the state and community-based Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) grants and cut the research and development grant by \$5.5 million. CAPTA receives similar treatment in the President's FY 2007 budget request. The proposal would fund the state grants at the pre-across-the-board cut level of \$27 million; fund the research and development grant at the pre-across-the-board cut level of \$26 million; and would fund the community-based grants at \$42 million, a \$300,000 cut from the actual funding level in FY 2006, and a \$1 million cut from FY 2005.

PSSF: Otherwise known as title IV-B (2) of the Social Security Act, Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) grants help states pay for family support, family preservation, family reunification, and adoption support. States are expected to spend 20% of their allotment on each service category. Prevention efforts in some states are paid for using PSSF family support dollars. PSSF consists of two funding streams, one mandatory and one discretionary.

PSSF mandatory funding was one of the few bright spots in the FY 2006 budget season. Congress provided a \$40 million one-year increase for PSSF mandatory funding as part of the DRA. The President's budget requests a continuation of this increased level for FY 2007, asking again for \$345 million in mandatory funding. Unfortunately, Congress cut PSSF discretionary funding by \$9 million in FY 2006. The President would continue to fund discretionary PSSF at the FY 2006 level of \$89 million.

Child Care: Like PSSF, the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) consists of a mandatory funding stream, and a discretionary funding stream. The recently passed DRA included an additional \$200 million per year for mandatory child care funding as part of the TANF reauthorization language. Due to this, FY 2006 mandatory child care funding is \$2.9 billion. Discretionary funding for child care was level-funded in FY 2006 at \$2.062 billion. The Administration proposes to continue funding both mandatory and discretionary child care at FY 2006 levels. Due to these inadequate funding levels, an anticipated 400,000 fewer children will receive child care assistance in 2011 than did in 2005.

Head Start: Head Start funding in FY 2007 would remain at the FY 2006 level of \$6.786 billion. The Head Start Association estimates that 19,000 children will lose services as a result of level-funding the program.

³ Last year, Congress enacted a 1% across-the-board cut to discretionary programs. Unless otherwise indicated, "level-funded" refers to the post across-the-board cut funding level.



Key Programs Receiving Funding Increases:

Healthy Marriage and Family Formation: The DRA TANF reauthorization language included \$150 million per year for 5 years in competitive grants to develop and implement healthy marriage promotion and responsible fatherhood programs. Up to \$50 million per year of that allocation may be used for fatherhood initiatives. The Administration proposes an additional \$100 million in state grants for this initiative in FY 2007, putting the total funding request at \$250 million.

Compassion Capital Fund: The FY 2007 budget provides \$100 million for CCF, a \$36 million increase over the FY 2006 appropriated level. \$50 million of the total allocation is directed towards the First Lady's *Helping America's Youth Initiative* to help youth at risk of gang influence and involvement.

Adoption Incentives: In FY 2006, this program was funded at \$18 million. The President proposes funding the Adoption Incentives program at \$30 million in FY 2007, \$12 million increase.

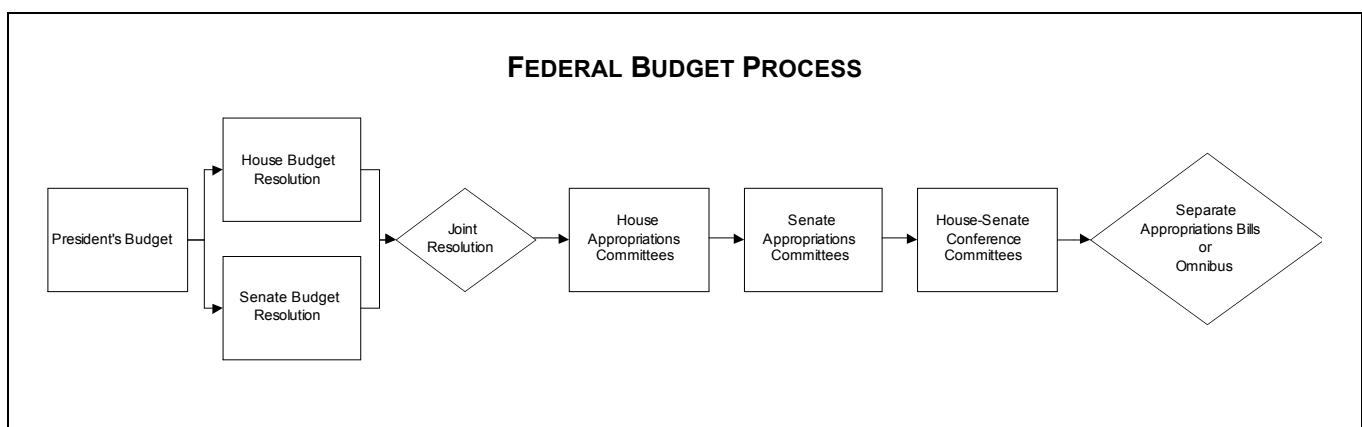
Next Steps:

While it is important to advocate for specific funding streams impacting your agencies, the first step in the budget process will be to press the Congressional Budget Committees to provide an appropriate funding allocation for overall discretionary spending in this year's budget resolution. This will help to ensure adequate funding for the FY 2007 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (Labor-HHS-Ed) appropriations bill. The President's budget proposes a 2.8% decrease to the Labor-HHS-Ed appropriations allocation from the FY 2006 level. If the ceiling provided by the resolution is too low, cuts to some of the programs we care about will be all but guaranteed. Please visit PCAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) throughout the federal budget debate to find out what you can do to help.

In addition to setting funding allocations for the various appropriations bills, the budget resolution may include reconciliation instructions to cut taxes and/or mandatory spending, as we saw last year. We will keep you posted on how this develops.

Federal Budget Process Refresher

The President's request. Budget resolutions. Reconciliation. Appropriations. What happens, when, and by whom? As the year goes on, it can all get a bit confusing. So here's a little refresher on the federal budget process.



As you can see from the diagram above, submission of the President's budget marks the beginning of a budget cycle that is expected to last most of the calendar year. Budget bills are now being



considered in both the House and Senate, with the ultimate goal of adopting a single congressional budget resolution. The deadline for adopting a final resolution is April 15th, though this date often slips. In fact, in some years Congress never agrees upon a budget blueprint. By late spring, House and Senate committees will begin work on appropriations bills. It is the appropriations committees that have final say over funding amounts for domestic discretionary programs such as CAPTA and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF).

Budget Process Changes included in President's Request:

In the President's budget request, the Administration recommended changes to the budget process that, if enacted, would make future spending increases much harder to come by. Those changes include:

- 1) Capping discretionary spending. Any appropriations bill exceeding its cap would be subject to a three-fifths vote of the Senate. If cumulative appropriations exceeded the overall spending limit, an automatic across-the-board cut would be made.
- 2) Reinstating pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules for spending, which would require mandatory spending increases be offset by mandatory spending reductions elsewhere. Previous PAYGO rules that have expired required that both mandatory spending and tax cuts be offset.
- 3) Reinstating a line-item veto that would give the President the authority to eliminate specific funding passed by Congress. President Clinton was given line-item veto authority in 1996, but the Supreme Court declared this unconstitutional in 1998.

President Includes Child Welfare Financing In Budget Request

For the fourth year in a row, the President's budget request proposes to give states the option of receiving title IV-E funds as a block grant. Currently, title IV-E is an uncapped entitlement program in which funding is provided based on the number of children eligible to receive the foster care dollars. Funding levels increase and decrease automatically based on need. Block granting the program would provide a fixed allocation amount, and would provide states with more flexibility in how they use their dollars. This idea has yet to gain traction in the 109th Congress. We will keep you posted on further developments.

Home Visiting Bill Attracts More Cosponsors

The Education Begins at Home Act (EBAH) continues to gain support in Congress. Just one week after Parents as Teachers representatives from around the country met with their members of Congress, 5 more Representatives signed onto the House bill. This is a great reminder of how well members of Congress respond to an issue when they hear about it directly from their constituents. Please help us continue to press for additional cosponsors for EBAH. Visit our [Legislative Action Center](#) to send a message to your members of Congress.

The Education Begins at Home Act (S 503 and HR 3628)

EBAH would extend to a broad range of families the opportunity to benefit from Healthy Families America and other quality home visitation programs. The legislation would provide \$500 million over three years to help states establish or expand quality home visitation programs. Of the \$500 million authorized, \$400 million would be provided to states on a formula basis to expand and enhance home visiting programs, while the remaining \$100 million would be divided between two competitive grants to reach military families and families with English Language Learners.



HR 3628 Cosponsors (as of 2/17/06)

Rep. Barrow (D-GA-12)**
 Rep. Bonner (R-AL-1)
 Rep. Boswell (D-IA-3)
 Rep. Davis (D-IL-7)*
 Rep. DeLauro (D-CT-3)
 Rep. Doggett (D-TX-25)
 Rep. Edwards (D-TX-17)
 Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ-7)*
 Rep. Kuhl (R-NY-29)*
 Rep. LaHood (R-IL-18)
 Rep. Lewis (D-GA-5)
 Rep. McCotter (R-MI-11)
 Rep. McDermott (D-WA-7)
 Rep. McNulty (D-NY-21)
 Rep. Michaud (D-ME-2)
 Rep. Moran (D-VA-8)
 Rep. Osborne (R-NE-3)*
 Rep. Platts (R-PA-19)*

S 503 Cosponsors (as of 2/17/06)

Sen. Bond (R-MO)
 Sen. Clinton (D-NY)*
 Sen. Collins (R-ME)
 Sen. Corzine (D-NJ)
 Sen. DeWine (R-OH)*
 Sen. Durbin (D-IL)
 Sen. Landrieu (D-LA)
 Sen. Lautenberg (D-NJ)
 Sen. Rockefeller (D-WV)
 Sen. Snowe (R-ME)
 Sen. Talent (R-MO)

*Sits on HELP or Education Reform

** Sits on Education and the Workforce full committee

Congress Takes on Lobbying & Earmarking

An issue gaining prominence on Capitol Hill recently concerns the push to reform federal lobby laws and, relatedly, proposals which would curb or eliminate congressional earmarking. Lobby reform, in particular, has been a hot topic in media circles and, not surprisingly, a slew of ideas have been percolating. Issues addressed in the first of several congressional hearings anticipated on the topic (January 25th, before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee) included: increasing disclosure requirements of grassroots lobbying; restricting or banning privately-sponsored travel and gifts; and curbing the proliferation of earmarks, also known as member-requested projects.

Still undetermined is whether the legal definition of *lobbyist* should be updated (the *1995 Lobbying Disclosure Act* defines lobbyists as those who spend at least 20% of their work time seeking to influence Congress), or whether Congress will reconsider which activities constitute lobbying. Several lobbying reform measures have already been introduced, including the following:

- the *Lobbying Transparency and Accountability Act* (S 2128; HR 4575), sponsored in the Senate by John McCain (R-AZ) and in the House by Christopher Shays (R-CT-4);
- the *Honest Leadership and Open Government Act* (S 2180; HR 4682), sponsored in the Senate by Harry Reid (D-NV) and in the House by Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-8); and
- HR 4696, the *Restoring Trust in Government Act*, sponsored by Mike Rogers (R-MI-8).

Measures intended to rein in earmarks include:

- the *Obligation of Funds Transparency Act* (S 1495; HR 1642), sponsored in the Senate by John McCain (R-AZ) and in the House by Jeff Flake (R-AZ-6);



- a resolution (S Res 365) introduced by Senators Lott (R-MS) and Feinstein (D-CA) to provide a 60 vote point of order against out-of-scope material in conference reports and open the process of earmarks;
- S 2265, the *Pork-Barrel Reduction Act*, introduced by John McCain (R-AZ); and
- S 2261, the *Transparency and Integrity in Earmarks Act*, introduced by Barack Obama (D-IL).

Additional proposals are expected before final consideration is given to lobbying legislation and earmarking. At this stage there is little consensus, though both chambers are expected to act sooner rather than later. To date, only one measure has reached the floor -- a fast-tracked resolution introduced by David Dreier (R-CA-26) that eliminates floor privileges and access to the House gym for registered lobbyists who are former congressmen. Stay tuned to *Prevention Advocate* for legislative updates related to lobby reform and earmarking. Final legislation is expected some time in March.

Children's Bureau Issues Proposed Research Priorities, Seeks Public Comment

Excerpted from the National Child Abuse Coalition's February 8th Washington Memorandum

The HHS Children's Bureau has released its proposed child abuse and neglect research priorities, as required by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) to be published every two years for public comments on proposed research on the causes, prevention, assessment, identification, treatment, cultural and socio-economic distinctions, and the consequences of child abuse and neglect.

The Children's Bureau encourages comment to recommend how the proposed research issues should be prioritized. To be considered, comments must be received by the HHS Children's Bureau no later than April 4, 2006, sent to the attention of Catherine Howard at choward@acf.hhs.gov.

The Children's Bureau proposes research addressing the following:

- Effective child abuse and neglect prevention practices
- State-level strategies to improve child protection systems
- Assessment of services needed by and provided to children and families
- Response of protective services to children's mental health issues
- Evaluation of effectiveness of healthy marriage promotion and fatherhood initiatives to prevent child abuse and neglect
- Secondary analysis of NCANDS data on service utilization, recurrence of maltreatment, and perpetrators
- Analysis of services provided to victims of child maltreatment
- Factors accounting for recurrence of reporting of child maltreatment
- Characterizations of perpetrators to inform more effective intervention and prevention efforts.

In addition, the Children's Bureau intends to continue to fund field initiated research on child abuse and neglect as well as consideration of research topics suggested by Congress in the 2003 reauthorization of CAPTA.

In developing the proposed research priorities, the Children's Bureau reviewed research topics mandated in CAPTA, the results of research funded by CAPTA since the last announcement of research priorities in 1997, findings from other relevant research, and suggestions from the field.



In addition to funding competitive grants in research, the CAPTA discretionary funds at \$26 million in FY06 support activities in training, technical assistance, demonstrations and evaluations of approaches to preventing and treating child maltreatment, as well as the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, the National Resource Center on Child Protective Services, and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) technical assistance and technical support program. In addition, CAPTA discretionary money supports the fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-4), as a congressionally mandated activity, and continues to support the Consortium for Longitudinal Studies of Child Maltreatment (LONGSCAN), consistent with CAPTA's preference for longitudinal research related to child maltreatment.

The child abuse research priorities were published in the Federal Register for February 3, 2006. They are also available on-line at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a060203c.html.

Register Now for PCA America's 2006 National Conference

Registration is now open for the Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference ***"America's Families: We All Play a Supporting Role"*** which will take place May 21-24, 2006 at the Town & Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego, California.

This is the **only** national conference that focuses on the **prevention** of child maltreatment and that will bring together professionals and volunteers in the fields of family support, child abuse prevention, home visiting, early childhood care, education, nursing and others in addition to the many members of the Prevent Child Abuse America state networks. **Register before March 31st to receive the earlybird rate of \$310 per person;** the regular registration rate of \$375 will apply for registrations received between April 1st and May 5th.

Register online at: <http://www.preventchildabuse.org/ConferenceEvents/conference.html>.

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