

# News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Contact: Chuck Fant, 202-225-5501

## **Democratic Amendments Markup of the 2005 House Budget Resolution House Budget Committee March 11, 2004**

1. **Protect Social Security from the Federal Deficit**  
**Reps. Davis, Moran, Moore, Ford, Thompson, Baird, Cooper, Davis, Majette, Kind**

This amendment follows up on Chairman Greenspan's testimony and explicitly links Social Security to Bush tax cuts. It creates a point of order against tax cuts and mandatory spending legislation which increase the deficit until the budget is balanced without help from Social Security.

2. **Support for the Troops**

**Reps. Edwards, Hooley, Baldwin, DeLauro, Baird, Cooper**

This amendment adds \$2.5 billion to support our men and women in the armed forces and their families and reduces the deficit by an amount equal to the outlay costs of this provision. The increase is for compensation and benefit programs such as increased access to TRICARE for reserve personnel who are unemployed or are not eligible for an employer sponsored benefit plan (\$1 billion); improved military housing construction and financing (\$1 billion); increase pay for senior enlisted personnel (\$350 million); increase imminent danger pay for servicemen and women deployed around the world (\$55 million); add to the family separation allowance (\$86 million); and increase funding for family support centers (\$50 million). This amendment also provides funding for Impact Aid to the school districts that primarily teach the children of servicemen and women (\$14 million). The amendment is offset by a slight reduction (17 percent) of the tax cuts received under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 for people with annual adjusted gross incomes of more than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$105,800.

3. **Lower Prescription Drug Prices**

**Reps. Emanuel, Baldwin, DeLauro, Scott, Capps, Majette**

This amendment would ensure that the budget resolution includes H.R. 4247, the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act. It strikes the reserve fund for reimportation and medical malpractice, and instead mirrors the approach used in the Senate Budget Resolution, by explicitly including the savings from reimportation in the budget resolution.

4. **Improving Education for All Students**

**Reps. Hooley, Moran, Baldwin, Moore, Scott, Ford, Capps, Thompson, Emanuel, Davis, Majette, Kind**

The amendment provides \$6.2 billion to help ensure that all schools meet the needs of all their students and that more students have the opportunity to obtain a post-secondary education. It adds \$3.0 billion for vital programs under the “No Child Left Behind Act,” raises the maximum Pell Grant award to \$4,500, and puts the federal government on a path to provide “full funding” for special education with an additional \$1.2 billion over the President’s 2005 funding level. The amendment is offset by slightly reducing the tax cut received under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 for people with annual adjusted gross incomes of more than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$101,300.

5. **Helping the Jobless and Creating New Jobs**

**Reps. Majette, Hooley, Baldwin, DeLauro, Scott, Capps, Davis, and Kind**

This amendment provides \$6.5 billion for programs that help jobless workers and promote job creation by helping small businesses start, grow, and become more competitive. Specifically, the amendment: (1) continues federal extended unemployment benefits through June; (2) provides funding for Small Business Administration general business loans and the microloan program, and rejects the President’s proposal to sharply increase general business loan fees; (3) restores funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership to \$110 million for 2005 (this program received only \$39 million for 2004, a 63 percent reduction that harmed the program’s ability to fulfill its mission of helping small manufacturers); and (4) provides an additional \$150 million for dislocated worker and adult training programs. The amendment is offset by a slight reduction (19 percent) of the tax cuts received under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 for people with annual adjusted gross incomes of more than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$103,041.

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