

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

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US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Markup of the 2005 House Budget Resolution

Day One — March 11, 2004

1. **Increase Funding for Veterans Affairs**

Rep. Brown-Waite

This amendment increases funding for Veterans by \$200 million in fiscal year 2005 and \$1.01 billion over the next five years. The amendment is offset by cuts to administrative and managerial government functions.

Adopted by Voice Vote

2. **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.

Defeated on a 17 to 23 Vote

3. **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.

Defeated on a 17 to 23 Vote

4. **Lower Price of Prescription Drugs**

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.

Defeated on a 16 to 23 Vote

5. **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.

Defeated on a 16 to 22 Vote

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