



The Blue Dog Coalition



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Blue Dog Co-Chairs Respond to President's Budget

Washington, D.C. – The Co-Chairs of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition today responded to the President's FY '08 budget which was released today.

“Under pressure from fiscal hawks, like the Blue Dogs, the President is beginning to demonstrate a commitment to cleaning up our fiscal house, but this commitment demands that the President recognize the serious financial situation that our country is experiencing, one that becomes increasingly worse with time,” said Rep. Allen Boyd (D-FL), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Administration. “Unfortunately, the President's budget once again omits our government's total fiscal exposures, painting a “best case scenario” that will be almost impossible to live up to. The Blue Dogs will be working in Congress to ensure that the FY '08 budget will be honest and realistic and complete with PAYGO rules and appropriate spending caps.”

"The President's priorities in this budget are not in line with the priorities of America's seniors, working families and children," said Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications. "In order to restore fiscal discipline in our government we must make a commitment to reducing the deficit while dealing with budgetary realities in a candid manner. Our growing national debt is almost \$9 trillion and it is time that we make the tough choices necessary to reverse our country's precarious fiscal course."

“The President's budget should reflect the priorities of the American people,” said Rep. Dennis Moore (D-KS), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Policy. But with cuts to programs that invest in our future, like education and health care, I am concerned this budget does not do that. The Blue Dog Coalition is committed to dealing with our country's fiscal realities in a frank and honest manner, so that we take care of our basic needs, but don't pass on massive debt to our children and grandchildren.”

The Blue Dog Coalition has long advocated pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) spending as a solution for reducing a national debt that is rapidly approaching \$9 trillion. Earlier this year, House leadership included PAYGO spending requirements in the House rules package, and the Blue Dog Coalition is committed to seeing that PAYGO requirements again become law.

The conservative Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 44 members of the Blue Dog Coalition.

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